

STARS AND STRIPES®

Linney brings her own brand of sexy to 'Kinsey'

Page 21

Actress Laura Linney



Illesheim ceremony salutes retiring aviation legend

Spotlight, Page 4



After slow start, No. 1 Trojans take fight to Irish

Back page

USC's Reggie Bush (5) and Notre Dame's Tom Zbikowski

Volume 63, No. 226 © EPSS 2004

G

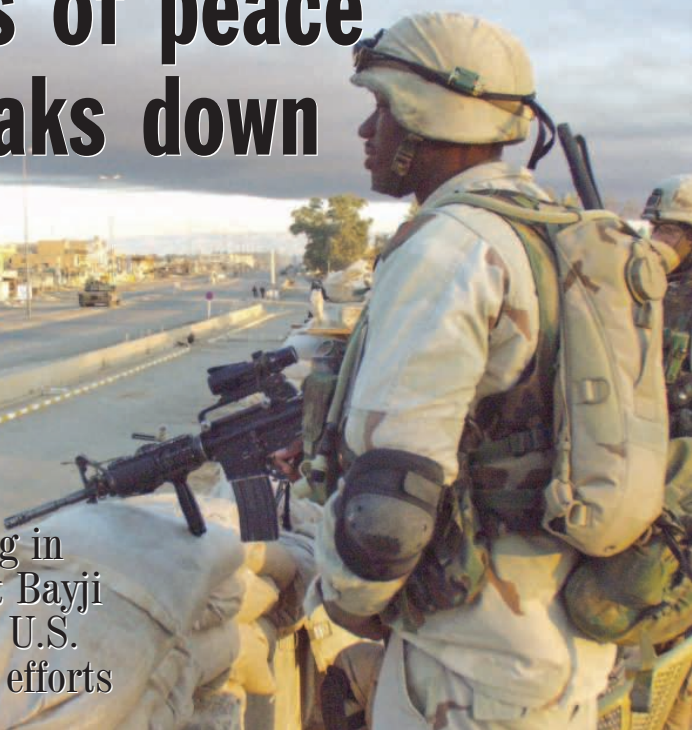
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004

50¢

Oasis of peace breaks down

Uprising in once-quiet Bayji disrupts U.S. rebuilding efforts

Page 5



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Under a sooty cloud from a nearby oil refinery, Sgt. Melvin Davis, 32, of Battery B of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7, surveys the empty main street of Bayji, Iraq. The street has been closed to Iraqi traffic during the day for the past several weeks since a violent uprising began in the city, including a car bombing that injured three U.S. soldiers. Troops say they can't understand why the people of Bayji side with the terrorists when Americans have built new buildings for them and given gifts to many of the city's children.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Guys going for
good grooming

Scene on Sunday

Ben Jelen
a modern balladeerDon't miss a
single issue.For home delivery,
call DSN 349-8437STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....24
American Roundup18-19
Classified25-26
Comics22-24
Crossword23
Faces21
Horoscope22
Letters14
Opinion14-15
Sports27-36
TV listings20
Weather17
Your Money12

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Mount St. Helens: A 3.1-magnitude earthquake shook the crater at Mount St. Helens on Saturday, the strongest quake at the volcano since mid-October.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists said they do not believe a major eruption is imminent — just a continuation of the minor ash and steam eruptions that have been occurring since the mountain reawakened this fall.

Scientists hoped good weather Sunday and Monday would allow them to get a better look at the volcano.

World

Russian school siege: The head of a parliamentary commission investigating the September hostage siege at a school in southern Russia said there is evidence pointing to involvement by a foreign intelligence agency, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday.

The statement was the latest of several in which Russian officials and politicians have alleged that foreigners were involved in the Sept. 1-3 attack on a school in the southern town of Beslan, which ended in bloody chaos and left more than 330 people dead, many of them children.

Russian officials initially said the attackers killed at the school included nine or 10 Arabs, but they never provided any proof of that.

China airliner crash: Experts have decoded the flight recorders of an airliner that exploded and crashed into a lake in northern China, killing 55 people, but the cause of the accident remained unclear, according to official reports.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders were pulled Wednesday from the icy lake near the city of Baotou where the China Eastern Airlines plane crashed Nov. 21, seconds after takeoff. Authorities have said they found no evidence of terrorism.

All 47 passengers and six crew members aboard the Canadian-built Bombardier CRJ-200 plane were killed. Two people were killed on the ground.

SARS vaccine test: Thirty-six Chinese volunteers participating in the world's first SARS human vaccine tests are "in good condition," the official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday.

The volunteers were injected between May and August as part of China's aggressive research aimed at preventing a new outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, the first emerged in 2002 in the southern province of Guangdong.

It is too soon to tell if the vaccine is effective, Xinhua said, citing Dr. Zhong Nanshan, a SARS expert. He said test results will be released in January.

Freed U.N. workers: Two U.N. workers who spent nearly a month in the hands of mysterious kidnappers flew out of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday toward the warm welcomes of relatives and friends in Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

Annetta Flanagan and Shajpe Hebib,



Slain hunters: Mourners react Saturday as they watch hearses carrying the caskets of Robert and Joseph Croteau pull away from St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rice Lake, Wis.

Robert Croteau, 42, and his son, Joseph, 20, were two of six hunters shot and killed in northwestern Wisconsin on Nov. 21. Both were killed in a confrontation with another hunter. The funeral for another victim, Allan Laski, was held later Saturday. The man accused in the shootings, Chai Yang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., remained in jail awaiting formal charges.

wrapped in scarves against the morning chill, gave a last hug to colleagues before boarding a white United Nations plane and taking off for an undisclosed destination. They were the only passengers.

EU to aid Sudan: The European Union pledged humanitarian aid for Sudan on Sunday to help avert a "major food crisis" brewing in the troubled Darfur region due to continuing hostilities.

Newly appointed EU Commissioner Louis Michel announced the aid in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum after touring Darfur, in the west of the country.

In a statement released in Brussels, Belgium, he also called for "all armed groups" to stop attacking civilians and "allow aid workers to do their difficult and vital job as safely as possible."

Mexico federal agent killings: Four federal police officers were suspended without pay as prosecutors investigate alleged police negligence in the vigilante killings of two federal agents this week, officials said Saturday.

The two victims and a third agent, who survived, were photographing an elementary school in San Juan Ixtayopan on Mexico City's southern outskirts for an anti-drug operation when they were mistaken for kidnappers Tuesday.

The men were seized by an angry crowd and savagely beaten. Two of them were doused with paint thinner and set ablaze, and their deaths were captured on tape and repeatedly televised nationwide.

Equatorial Guinea coup plot: The British government was given details of an alleged plot to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea, including the names of mercenaries and the expected date of the attack,

months in advance, a newspaper reported Sunday.

According to The Observer, two senior British intelligence officers were sent detailed reports in December 2003 and January 2004 by former South African special forces commander Johann Smith, who had learned of the plot.

The alleged plot was exposed in March by South African intelligence services.

War on terrorism

Gitmo tribunals: Two alleged members of the ousted Taliban regime and a man accused of links to the al-Qaida network appeared Saturday before review tribunals at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said.

All three men spoke at their hearings, but the military has provided no transcripts of statements made at the review tribunals. No names or nationalities were released.

French hostages in Iraq: Two French hostages held to captive for more than 100 days appear to be alive and in good spirits, a British newspaper that received film footage of the men reported Sunday.

The Sunday Times said it had a CD-ROM recording in which Christian Chesnot says he and his fellow reporter Georges Malbrun are being well treated by their captors "although their hospitality is not like a five-star hotel." The newspaper said it believed the recording had been made earlier this month.

The men disappeared Aug. 20 while driving to the Iraqi city of Najaf. Their Syrian driver, Mohammed al-Jundi, also was captured but was rescued Nov. 11 by U.S. Marines sweeping Fallujah.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Note to readers

Due to an Italian Labor Union strike, Stars and Stripes will be delivered late tomorrow, Nov. 30. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.



Your savings really add up with
Certificate Specials
From Service Credit Union

Comics, advice and horoscope
every day in Stars and Stripes

2.50^{APR}
14 Month \$1,000 min.
Contact us for details!

Other rates and terms available



www.servicecu.org
24 Hour Customer Center
00850-4728-2000



Belgium set for Bulge's 60th anniversary

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

As World War II 60th anniversary events go, next month's gathering in Bastogne, Belgium, will be the first major remembrance since June, when the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, were honored.

The events celebrating the Battle of the Bulge will include parachutes and parades, ceremonies and concerts, wreaths and fetes. Veterans of the famous battle are expected to turn out in droves, a rare event that will only get rarer as more and more of them pass on.

"The 60th anniversary events will never, ever happen again," Army Lt. Col. Scott Glass said. "This is our last chance for very large groups of veterans coming to Belgium."

Music will usher in the official ceremonies, scheduled for Dec. 16-19. The main events are slated for the final two days, Saturday and Sunday. Belgian King Albert II and other dignitaries are scheduled to attend the ceremonies.

For seven successive days, beginning Dec. 10, the 76th U.S. Army Band from Mannheim, Germany, will perform concerts in several Benelux towns, from Noville and Malmédy in Belgium to Brunssum, Netherlands, and Arlon on the Belgium-Luxembourg border.

The concert in Arlon is scheduled for Dec. 16, the start of the four-day remembrance. Prior to the concert, a ceremony will be held at the U.S. Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg.

Col. Dean Nowowiejski, commander of the 80th Area Support Group, which is active in the commemoration, suggested that interested soldiers attend at least one of the ceremonies and visit an American war cemetery. For young soldiers, especially those who have served in Iraq, the trip should hold even greater meaning, he said. "It helps a lot to understand that if you are lost on a battlefield, you won't be forgotten," Nowowiejski said.

No matter which event a soldier attends, "in the audience," he said, "you will have a lot of friends of America."

To this day, the people of the Benelux — which includes Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg — have not forgotten the sacrifices the Americans made in liberating them from Nazi Germany.

The Battle of the Bulge actually encompassed a series of battles fought over several hundred miles between Dec. 16, 1944, and Jan. 25, 1945. More than 1 million combatants on both sides took part. U.S. forces suffered 19,000 deaths.

While losses were high, the battle, which at first caught the Allies off guard, represented Germany's last major offensive of the war.

"It was a hard fight," said Glass, who is director of plans, mobilization, training and security for the 80th ASG in Chievres, Belgium.

For Glass and some other soldiers, the remembrance is also personal.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Glass said his father fought in the Battle of the Bulge as a member of the 87th Infantry Division. The elder Glass had planned to attend the commemoration, but he passed away last month at the age of 81.

Spc. Rebecca Jones, a communications specialist in Chievres, recently learned her grandfather, Eugene Heugel, took part in the battle as well. Jones said visiting the Bastogne region, where the major battles occurred, left her with a greater respect for her grandfather and all the other men who repulsed the German advance.

By visiting the battle sites, she said, "I can see it. I can feel it. I can stand in the same places as my grandfather did."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mil.estripes.osd.mil



RICHARD W. HAVENNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

World War II veteran Jack Schwamhauser, left, president of the 104th Infantry Division Association, tells Lt. Col. Scott Glass of the 80th Area Support Group how three colonels from his division were killed at the same time. Glass met up with a tour of the 104th vets Oct. 21 at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium where the officers are buried.

Battle of the Bulge 60th anniversary activities

Dec. 18:

■ 8:30 a.m. — Historical walk departing from Café L'Europa on McAuliffe Square

■ 10 a.m. — Parade through the city and wreath laying ceremony at (Brig. Gen. Anthony) McAuliffe Square and Gen. George Patton's monument

■ 4:45 p.m. — Ceremony at the Mardasson Monument

■ 4:45 p.m. — The annual "Nuts Festival," which commemorates — among other things — Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe's famous "Nuts" reply to the German surrender demand. The event takes place at the Bastogne town hall.

■ 5:20-6:20 p.m. — Sound and Light Show downtown Bastogne. Concert by the 76th Army Band at Bastogne follows.

Dec. 19:

■ 10:30 a.m. — Commemorative ceremony at the Church of Noville (village close to Bastogne)

■ 11:30 a.m. and noon — Air Drop near the Mardasson Monument. Participating in the parachute drop will be four Battle of the Bulge veterans.

■ 3-5 p.m. — Parade of 300 vintage military vehicles through Bastogne.

Aging bodies need fine-tuning for military duty

Individual Ready Reserve calling back at least 5,600

BY SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

The Associated Press

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Chief Warrant Officer Margaret Murray, self-described as "over 50," says her small frame and some old back pain made it difficult to fire her M-16 in a marksmanship refresher course.

"With my stature, it was a challenge," said the 4-foot-10, 95-pound, gray-haired personnel specialist from Schenectady, N.Y. "But I can hit the target now."

Murray is one of about 4,400 Army soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve who completed their active-duty service but have been notified they must get back in uniform. Most likely, they are headed for Iraq or Afghanistan.

Ranging in age from 24 to 62, the returning soldiers bring valuable experience to the Army. But their advanced ages, weakened eyes and expanded waistlines mean doing things a bit differently.

"Old is the operative word. I joke my contingent just came from Fort Living Room," said Lt. Col. Douglas Snyder, commander of the training unit here. "They haven't run



Spc. Gwen Howard, left, makes her move Thursday as her teammates Spc. Shane Clinton, and Sgt. Matthew Booth, right, wait their turn during an urban assault training class at Fort Jackson, S.C. They are three of more than 4,400 one-time Army soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve training for duty that will likely take them to Iraq or Afghanistan.

in two, four, six, maybe 10 years or more. And that goes for push-ups, too."

One lieutenant colonel with bifocals had to switch from an M-16 to a 9 mm pistol to

qualify. The petite Murray learned to adjust her stance to fire her weapon.

"We don't give up on them. We haven't failed to qualify a single person," said Staff

Sgt. Kenneth Calloway, an Army Reserve instructor. "We just give each individual a lot of time — and lots of ammunition."

Still, of the 1,100 ready reservists who have reported so far to Fort Jackson, the nation's largest training base, 325 were released from active duty, many for medical grounds such as bad knees, back pain or irregular heartbeats.

And not all the reservists have returned. Last month, the Army reported that more than 800 of the former soldiers had failed to comply orders to report for duty.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve were honorably discharged after finishing their active-duty tours — usually four to six years — but remained in the IRR for the rest of the eight-year commitment they made when they joined the Army.

In all, the Army has said it will involuntarily recall more than 5,600 of those soldiers. The last time these troops were called up was in 1990, when nearly 20,000 were mobilized.

While not expected to join front-line combat units, the returnees will fill jobs unneeded such as engineers, vehicle maintenance workers and other support staff.

"My hat is off to these people," Calloway said. "They may not have fired a weapon in 12 years, but they know they have to get back there for their own good as well as that of their fellow soldiers."

Aviation legend decides to hang up wings, retire

Many help McNeal celebrate 35 years of service in Army

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

ILLESHEIM, Germany — With nicknames like Bobby Mac and Mac Daddy, one might think that Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert McNeal was an up-and-coming hip-hop artist.

But McNeal, who retires Jan. 31, after 35 years of Army service, is an honest-to-God aviation legend, according to Col. George Bialfar, commander of the 11th Aviation Regiment.

"His entire career, he has been leading by example," Bialfar said, in remarks at McNeal's Nov. 5 retirement ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Illesheim theater to accommodate everyone who attended — many flew in from the States, to bid farewell to McNeal. "He is the epitome of the warrant officer corps. Bobby is an absolute legend in Army aviation."

McNeal began his career as a crew chief door gunner in 1966 in the Vietnam War. He went through flight school in 1969, joining a handful of black pilots, and returned to Vietnam in 1970 for a 19-month tour as an AH-1 Cobra pilot.

While racism was widespread in the civilian world in the early 1970s, McNeal said he didn't encounter much in the Army — at least not as a pilot.

"When I was a crew chief, there was one guy in my unit who used the 'N-word' a lot around me," McNeal said. "He said he

didn't want me in his platoon. In nine months, I had gone from E-3 to E-5, and this guy was still a specialist 4 after 13 years of service."

Once McNeal went through flight school and achieved his boyhood dream of flying, his career soared.

He flew 1,756 combat hours during his second stint in Vietnam.

"I was not afraid," McNeal said. "I thought I couldn't die." Then, in Operation Junction City, in an area we thought was secure, I saw a guy on the ground with a weapon pointed me. He fired, and I fired too late. I froze. The round stopped before it hit me, but it made me realize that I was vulnerable."

In the mid-1970s McNeal flew the first AH-64 Apache concept helicopter. He was one of 21 pilots selected to field the Apache helicopters, Bialfar said.

McNeal spent much of his career as a trainer of pilots, and, unofficially, a mentor.

"Bobby taught lieutenants and captains what it took to be calm under fire," Bialfar said.

Even during Operation Iraq Freedom I, McNeal was mentoring young pilots.

"The Iraqis were fighting a lot like the Vietnamese," McNeal said. "We saw a lot of things that I experienced in Vietnam. I was able to help some of the younger guys in that way."

One of the soldiers he mentored was Chief Warrant Officer 5 Leonard Eichhorn of Headquar-

Stripes Spotlight



Jan. 31 after 35 years of service.

Job: Airfield operations officer with 11th Aviation Regiment, Illesheim, Germany

Age: 58

Family: Wife, Gina; daughters Miranda and Maritza

Hometown: Las Vegas

Stars and Stripes

ters Company, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

"He was one of the first guys I met in the Apache program back in 1986," Eichhorn said in an e-mail from Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. "Even then, he was one of the old guys, multiple tours in Vietnam. I always told him I was going to try and catch up to him. Making (chief warrant officer 5) only meant I'd caught up in rank. I'll never catch him in experience."

McNeal pinned on Eichhorn's chief warrant officer 5 rank on June 1.

For the past four years, McNeal has been stationed at Illesheim, serving as the regiment's tactical operations officer, standards officer and most recently the airfield operations manager.



Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert "Bobby" McNeal, with hat, plays poker with fellow pilots during down time in Vietnam in the early 1970s. It was McNeal's second time to Vietnam, the first tour, as a door gunner, the second, as a pilot.

The day before McNeal's retirement ceremony, he took his final flight, which also was his first in an AH-64D Apache Longbow. Afterward, soldiers from the regiment doused the runway with fire hoses and McNeal with champagne.

Having spent nearly two-thirds of his life in an Army uniform, McNeal has mixed feelings about letting go.

"When you get older, your reflexes aren't as refined," McNeal said. "I knew this time had to come, but I'm going to miss flying."

But, he said, he'll cherish the friends he has made across the globe.

"It's been a great career," McNeal said. "I've reached my dream and made friends all over the world. I feel truly blessed."

Although he is retiring, his legacy in Army aviation will live on in the soldiers and pilots he has mentored.

"Army aviation is in good hands because (McNeal) has taught us what right looks like," Bialfar said.

E-mail: rick.emert@army.mil



LISA EICHORN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

U.S. Army soldiers from Illesheim, Germany, douse McNeal with champagne on Nov. 4 after his last flight. McNeal leaves active duty on Jan. 31.

Hohenfels blood drive

A Landstuhl Regional Medical Center team will be in Hohenfels, Germany, for a blood drive Dec. 7-8. The drive takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Community Activity Center and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the post gym.

Anyone 18 or older who is eligible can donate.

The blood collected through the drive will be used for soldiers injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom. People ineligible to donate include those suffering from a cold, flu or fever, anyone weighing less than 110 pounds or anyone who was deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq in the past year.

To donate blood, people must have the following information: the name of any medication taken in the past four weeks; any immunizations received and dates administered; and every place visited outside the United States or Canada since 1980 — including all deployments. For more information, call the Hohenfels Health Clinic at DSN 446-1750 or civilian 09472-833-1750.

From staff reports

BY WYATTE PARRY

The Associated Press

LITTLE EGG HARBOR, N.J. — The night custodian was going about her rounds when she heard the patter of what sounded like footsteps on the roof of the Little Egg Harbor Intermediate School.

She thought someone might be running atop the building, but police found nothing.

The next morning, authorities realized what had made the sound: 20 mm rounds fired by a National Guard F-16 fighter on a nighttime training flight over a target range four miles away.

The incident has divided residents of the fast-growing region around the Warren Grove Guntery Range — some fear for their safety, while others consider it profoundly unpatriotic to question the military during a time of war.

"Had it missed the school and hit one of our houses, we'd be talking about dead bodies now," said Township Committee member Arthur Midgley. "We can't have this. This must never happen again."

But Terry Hickman, a 10-year Army Spe-

cial Forces veteran, defended the range and the pilots who train there.

"Let 'em alone; they're over there putting their lives on the line for us," Hickman said as he prepared to hunt deer in Bass River, near the edge of the range. "That guy [the pilot] probably feels so bad about this. He's probably going to get sent overseas and he might not even come back. As long as no one got hurt, this whole thing should just be forgotten."

The National Guard is still investigating what it describes as an accidental release of gunfire. Results are expected in about two weeks.

According to the military, at 9:02 p.m. on Nov. 3, a veteran pilot from the 113th Wing of the District of Columbia National Guard, based at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, was streaking across the sky 7,000 feet above the 9,416-acre range, which abuts parts of Little Egg Harbor, Stafford, Tuckerton and Bass River.

The pilot, a major whose name has not been released and who has been grounded pending the outcome of the inquiry, looked back over

his shoulder for a split second, just as the wing-mounted gun fired a burst of 27 rounds. The 20 mm cannon fires at a rate of about 6,000 rounds per minute.

The lead rounds followed an arcing trajectory that brought them to the ground four miles away. Eight bullets punched through the roof of the school and at least one lodged in a child's desk.

The pilot immediately radioed the tower that something had gone wrong and headed back to Andrews. The range is shut down until the investigation is completed.

The pilot's commander, Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr., told reporters in Washington there were three possible explanations: plane malfunction, computer error or pilot error. When the range was opened in 1942 during World War II, there were 2,000 people living nearby; now there are more than 50,000.

Lisamarie Saccomanno's daughter attends the school.

"Because we're at war now, I'm very sensitive to all the military's burdens," she said. "We all want to be safe and secure. But we're also concerned about our children. I'm afraid something's going to go wrong. We really need to know where those bullets are going."

N.J. community divided over target range

A bridge is broken in Bayji



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Insurgents blew up the center support for this highway bridge near Forward Operating Base Summerall on Nov. 13, effectively cutting off a key military supply route. Engineers from the 216th Engineer Battalion of the Ohio National Guard have nearly completed a mile-long bypass around the bridge.

In new insurgent attacks, U.S. troops lose connection to once-peaceful city

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
SUMMERALL, Iraq

What in the world has gone wrong in Bayji? By Iraqi standards, this crossroads city of 125,000 on the Baghdad-Mosul highway used to be peaceful. But military leaders worry that a spate of recent attacks have eroded months of U.S. work to rebuild the region.

Attacks against U.S. forces averaged fewer than one a day in the 80-by-60-mile region around Bayji, patrolled by the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7.

Then on Nov. 9, all hell broke loose.

That day, insurgents attacked Task Force 1-7 patrols in several parts of the city at once and turned Bayji's main north-south artery, Highway 1, into a shooting gallery. The firefight lasted more than five hours. There were no U.S. casualties, but about 25 enemy fighters died.

On Nov. 13, rebels blew up the center support of a crucial bridge along a city bypass near FOB Summerall, forcing convoys supplying the base to roll through the heart of the city. The next day, the rebels provoked another firefight that lasted all morning and caused more destruction to Bayji's business district.

And on Nov. 17, a suicide car bomber attacked an Army Bradley fighting vehicle, killing a dozen Iraqis and injuring more than 20 other people, including three U.S. soldiers.

"The last two weeks have been pretty intense," said 1st Sgt. Michael Grinston, 36, of Jasper, Ala., the senior noncommissioned officer in Task Force 1-7's Battery C.

During the first three weeks of November, insurgents attacked coalition military or civilian targets 82 times in the Bayji region. That was more than double the previous record of 37 attacks, set in July and equaled in October.

Task force commanders were most surprised by a big jump in roadside bombs. Soldiers have gotten better at both finding them and protecting against them; they've defused nearly half of the 56 bombs discovered this month before they detonated, and injuries have been few.

Tactically, the Bayji battles have been a huge vic-



AP/Stars and Stripes



tory for the U.S. forces. No Americans have died, and only a few have suffered injuries, while dozens of insurgents have been killed.

But Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, the task force commander, said the battles have eroded months of strategic progress in rebuilding Bayji — especially its downtown shopping thoroughfare, which Americans call Market Street — into a busy commercial hub.

He said the insurgents have staged most of their battles from the Market Street shops, because few Iraqis live there and American vehicles make easy targets on the narrow street.

SEE BAYJI ON PAGE 6



WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Top: An M1 tank from Battery C of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 rolls down Highway 1, the main north-south street in Bayji, Iraq. The street has been shut to daytime traffic, except for U.S. supply convoys, because of rebel attacks in recent weeks. **Above:** Task Force 1-7 soldiers talk with Bayji shopkeepers. **Left:** Spc. Greg McMeekan, 23, front, and Sgt. Melvin Davis, 32, scan the Bayji skyline from the roof of the mayor's office. McMeekan and Davis are members of Company A of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment from Schweinfurt, Germany, but are currently attached to Task Force 1-7.

Bayji: Setback for efforts

BAYJI, FROM PAGE 5

The fighting has left the downtown in ruins. Those shops not shattered by rockets and gunfire now rarely open up for business. Since the car bombing, McClelland has shut down traffic on Highway 1 from early morning until late afternoon each day so U.S. supply convoys can get through safely.

"You're not winning the hearts and minds of anybody this way," McClelland, 41, of Chicopee, Mass., said sardonically. "All the work we've accomplished in nine months was basically destroyed in two days."

McClelland's troops are working to restore some semblance of normalcy to the strategic city, which is home to Iraq's largest oil-refinery and two major power plants that together generate about one-third of the country's meager power supply.

First Lt. Mark Dilts, 31, is supervising a 22-member team of Ohio National Guardsmen from the 216th Engineer Battalion that is building a gravel bypass road around the bombed-out bridge. His soldiers and 10 pieces of heavy equipment have worked sunup and sundown each day, spreading rock and constructing a new railroad crossing while Task Force 1-7 soldiers guard their attack.

"It's almost a mile of road that we've built," Dilts said.

The road, which Dilts hopes to have open in a few days, would let trucks bypass the city again and would allow McClelland to reopen Bayji's main road to traffic. Like all military units in Iraq, Task Force 1-7 has funded construction of schools and medical clinics in the city. On Thursday, soldiers placed concrete barricades in front of the shopworn precinct, a gleaming, new \$700,000 bank.

New turbines also are being installed at one of the power plants, which should begin boosting the country's electrical capacity before the end of the year, according to a 1st ID news release.

"For the most part, we are making forward progress. We meet roadblocks, and we overcome them," McClelland said. "We'll leave [Bayji] better than we found it."

Email Steve Liewer at: lwiers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army



HENRY BYARD/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Left: Capt. Daric Holbrook of Task Force 1-7 emerges from the rubble of a burned-out building on Bayji's Market Street. The Iraqi city's business district was destroyed during firefights between U.S. Army troops and local insurgents Nov. 9 and Nov. 14. **Above:** A fuel tanker burns in downtown Bayji during a firefight Nov. 9 between U.S. forces from the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 and Iraqi insurgents. A tank shot a rocket at the fuel tanker because rebels were using it as cover.

'The whole city, from every side, was fighting'

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, Iraq — Guerrillas hiding in "gasoline alley," a fuel and maintenance district on the city's south edge, opened fire on Staff Sgt. James Tucker's platoon with grenades and AK-47s as it left Bayji around midday Nov. 9 after a quiet, three-hour patrol.

Tucker's men — from Task Force 1-7, based at nearby FOB Summerall — jumped out and flanked the insurgents while gunners laid down cover fire with 50-caliber machine guns. When they'd killed or driven off the gunmen, they discovered nine homemade bombs and some rocket-propelled grenades.

"They were setting up for an attack," said Tucker, 30, of Tulare, Calif. "It could have been a lot worse."

Within a few minutes of that encounter U.S. and Iraqi troops in several parts of the city came under fire. U.S. patrols and convoys dodged heavy gunfire all the way down Highway 1, the main north-south thoroughfare in Bayji, a city of 125,000 people.

"There was so much gunfire, we couldn't

get through," said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Manning, 29, of Valdosta, Ga., a platoon sergeant in the unit's Battery C. "Pretty much the whole city, from every side, was fighting."

For most Task Force 1-7 troops who were there, it was the longest, fiercest gunbattle they'd seen during nine months in Iraq.

"[Nov. 9] was the first time in a long time we've had a straight-up fight," said Sgt. Melvin Davis of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, currently assigned to Task Force 1-7.

"[Usually] [the rebels] just take off running," said Spc. Greg McMeekman, 23, of Okla. City, Mich., one of Davis' soldiers. "This time, hell no, they stood their ground."

Task Force 1-7 combat platoons ran a gauntlet of rifle fire to take up positions at the police station and city hall, both on Highway 1. Tanks and Bradleys headed down "Market Street," the city's chief shopping area and the insurgents' favorite spot for mounting attacks.

The armored vehicles blasted away at nests of rebels, inflicting heavy damage on the neighborhood.

"We destroyed a lot of the buildings, the places where they fight," said Capt. Michael

Byard, 30, of Trenton, N.J., the Battery C commander.

At one point, insurgents were firing at U.S. and Iraqi positions from behind a fuel truck on Highway 1. After getting permission from his commander, Tucker fired an AT4 rocket at it.

It exploded in an enormous fireball that was visible for miles.

"It was like a nuclear bomb," said Davis, 32, of Houston.

McMeekman, on the police department rooftop 500 meters away, said he had to turn his head away from the intense heat.

"I don't know what happened for those [insurgents]," Tucker said, "but they weren't there anymore."

Late in the day, the opposition vanished into the city. Task Force 1-7 counted at least 20 enemy dead and left the downtown in ruins.

Soldiers can't figure out why the people in Bayji side with the terrorists when the Americans have built new buildings for them and given out toys and school supplies to many of the city's children.

"You hope they'll become frustrated with the [insurgents], but they're intimidated, too," Byard said. "Why do they always attack the people who are trying to help them?"

"We tried to start out as humanitarians," said Tucker, who has been nominated for a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions Nov. 9. "We tell these people, 'we want to help but you have to help us.'"

Email Steve Liewer at: lwiers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Marines take a methodical approach south of Baghdad

BY JACKIE SPINNER

The Washington Post

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSI, Iraq — Through the scattered towns and along the dangerous roads of an area that one commander described as "kind of like the worst place in the world," U.S. Marines, British soldiers and Iraqi security forces are waging an old-fashioned war. The war is very different from the urban warfare waged elsewhere in Iraq in recent weeks.

Unlike the massive military push by the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, or similar assaults on Samarra or Mosul, the operation here in Babil province

has involved few firefights. It consists mostly of gathering intelligence and launching raids on homes and suspected weapons caches. Insurgents here are not clustered in urban neighborhoods but scattered over wide areas of what many Iraqis call the "triangle of death."

"We have to go out and hunt them down," said Col. Ron Johnson, commander of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is conducting Operation Plymouth Rock, so called because it started around Thanksgiving.

Since Tuesday, a combined force of more than 5,000 U.S., British and Iraqi troops has mounted

raids in a region south of Baghdad that resulted in the detention of more than 130 people. Most recently, the troops have targeted the dusty town of Yusufiyah, where 856 projectiles were discovered, the U.S. military said.

Officers say those numbers do not reflect the actual scope of the operation. U.S. military officials estimate that they could be fighting as many as 6,000 insurgents in the region, most of them disgruntled and unemployed local residents. Among them are said to be former members of the Republican Guard, a key element of Saddam Hussein's disbanded Iraqi military.

Johnson said the strategic im-

portance of northern Babil stems from its geographic location along major transportation arteries that link Baghdad with southern Iraq and also extend west to Fallujah and beyond. "It's a natural line of drift" for insurgents, he said.

Military officials in Babil said they have seen an influx of fighters and weapons since the Fallujah offensive. Maj. Clint Nusberger, the intelligence officer for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, said many of the insurgents were locals who went to Fallujah to fight and then came back. He estimated that between 200 and 300 such fighters returned to the area "with more skills than when they left."

Johnson said the U.S.-led force would take a methodical approach to wiping out the insurgency in north Babil.

Last month, a platoon of Marines and Iraqi National Guardsmen established a new police station in a government building on the southern edge of Latifiyah. Although they acknowledged that they did not control the town, U.S. military officials said they would ultimately take it back from the insurgents.

"I could take Latifiyah in an afternoon, but why am I going to kill innocent civilians?" Johnson said.

Special correspondent Omar Fakelki contributed to this report.

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

Save an extra \$2,000 while stocks last!



Pentagon Car Sales

...GERMANY

KAISERSLAUTERN
Kaiserstrasse 1
67661 Kaiserslautern
Tel: 0631 351 900

HEIDELBERG
Hebelstrasse 3
69115 Heidelberg
Tel: 06221 144 911

MANNHEIM
Waldeckweg 3
68309 Mannheim
Tel: 0621 724 6901

WIESBADEN / MAINZ
Ludwig-Walker-Str. 14
55252 Mainz-Kastel
Tel: 06134 567 800

...ITALY

AVIANO
Via Pordanone 48D
Aviano (PN) 33081
Tel: 0434 676 613/4

VICENZA
Viale Della Pace 254B
Vicenza (VI) 36100
Tel: 0444 305 888

NAPLES
Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f
80125 Naples
Tel: 081 762 3868

SIGONELLA
c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn
Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1
95040 Motta S. Anastasia (CT)
Tel: 095 713 0410

LA MADDALENA
Piazza Bambin Gesù 11
07024 La Maddalena (SS)
Tel: 0789 723 026

...SPAIN

ROTA
Plaza Del Triunfo 6
11520 Rota (Cadiz)
Tel: 956 841 678



Custom order your new car at factory direct prices through the Military Sales Program at Pentagon Car Sales...

9-5 Aero Sedan 2.3t
USMSRP \$39,950
Military Sales \$34,533

Savings \$5,417
+ additional \$2,000!

...Visit us for details of all the special offers currently available on the SAAB model range...

Pentagon  Car Sales

Drive Into Your Dreams

... be connected!

www.PentagonCarSales.com

Sales@PentagonCarSales.com

A-Zarqawi's group claims killings in Mosul

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's most feared terror group claimed responsibility Sunday for slaughtering members of the Iraqi security forces in Mosul — where dozens of bodies have been found.

The claim raises fears the terror group has expanded to the north after the loss of its purported base in Fallujah.

Meanwhile, insurgents staged attacks Sunday against U.S. and Iraqi targets in Baghdad and in Sunni Arab areas, underscoring the risks of holding national elections on Jan. 30.

Two U.S. soldiers were injured in a Baghdad attack, and another American soldier died Sunday in a traffic accident north of the capital, the military said.

U.S. and Iraqi forces killed 17 suspected insurgents in raids south of the capital Sunday, Iraqi police said. Operations there included a dawn speedboat assault by U.S. Marines, British and Iraqi troops on suspected insurgent hide-outs along the Euphrates River, British media reported.

A statement posted on an Islamist Web site in the name of al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for killing 17 members of Iraq's security forces and a Kurdish militiaman in Mosul, where insurgents rose up this month in support of guerrillas facing a U.S.-led assault in Fallujah.

The claim could not be independently verified but the style of writing appeared similar to other statements by al-Zarqawi's group, which is responsible for numerous car bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages in Iraq.

At least 50 people have been killed in Mosul in the past 10 days. Most of the victims are believed to have been supporters of Iraq's interim government or members of its fledgling security forces.

Separately, al-Zarqawi's group claimed it detonated a car bomb near a U.S. military convoy in the Hammam al-Alil area, near Mosul.

It said the blast destroyed an armored vehicle and damaged another.

Although the claims could not be verified, they raised fears that al-Zarqawi's organization had spread to Mosul, Iraq's third largest city 225 miles north of Baghdad. At least 43 suspected insurgents have been arrested as part of an ongoing operation to re-establish control of Mosul, a military statement said.

Al-Zarqawi's group, formerly known as Tawhid and Jihad, was believed to have been headquartered in Fallujah, the Sunni Arab insurgent bastion 40 miles west of Baghdad, before U.S. and Iraqi forces overran the city this month.

Al-Zarqawi and the city's two major Iraqi insurgent leaders, Sheikh Abdulhadi al-Jaburi and Omar Hadid, apparently escaped the onslaught and remain at large. Before the assault, U.S. in-

GI killed in traffic accident; 2 others hurt in attack

telligence officers have speculated that al-Zarqawi would try to relocate to Mosul if he lost his base in Fallujah.

U.S. and Iraqi officials launched the offensive against Fallujah in hopes of pacifying

Sunni areas north and west of the capital so that elections could be held there Jan. 30. Iraqis will select a national assembly in the first election since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in April 2003.

However, Sunni clerics have called for a boycott of the election to protest the Fallujah assault and the continued U.S. military presence. Sunni politicians have called for postponing the ballot for six months, although the pro-

posal has been rejected by the government and influential Shiite clerical leadership.

Elsewhere, a car bomb killed six people and injured five others in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad. The blast occurred as a minibus drove past a school, police Maj. Qahtan Mohammed said. All the casualties were passengers in the minibus, he said.



GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

SPECIAL OFFER! Subscribe to STARS AND STRIPES before December 31, 2004 and receive an EXTRA! EXTRA! large STARS AND STRIPES gift mug!

Don't miss daily developments on issues that affect you the most — Deployments, Local Happenings, Military Transformation, DoDDs Schools and so much more.

Special introductory rates offer substantial savings on the cover price!

Three months: \$45.40 (Save 12.5%) Six months: \$84.50 (Save 18.75%) Twelve months: \$156 (Save 25%)

Contact your Stars and Stripes customer service representative today:
tel: 06155 601 438 or DSN 349-8438. Email: customerservice@mail.estripes.osd.mil
Mention promo code: FREEMUG to receive your Stars and Stripes gift mug.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

*Gift mug offer valid only while supplies last. Special introductory rates available to new Home Delivery subscribers only. Home delivery not available in some areas; contact your Stars and Stripes customer service representative for more details.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday at least 1,236 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include six military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,098 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near a patrol north of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Pfc. Ryan J. Cantafio, 22, Beaver Dam, Wis.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to the Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago.

■ Marine Sgt. Benjamin C. Edinger, 24, Green Bay, Wis.; died Tuesday at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., from injuries received Nov. 14 in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Shiite split could threaten dominance in Iraq election

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As Iraq's Sunni Muslims ponder boycotting the Jan. 30 election and some press for a delay, the majority Shiite Muslims face another threat to their expected victory: a split in Shiite ranks that could cost them the chance to dominate the next parliament.

Separate candidate lists are being compiled by aides to President Ghazi al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — drawing Shiites away from the ticket that the country's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani is overseeing, according to well-connected Shiite figures.

The chairman of Iraq's elections commission told The Associated Press that last week's international conference on Iraq has strengthened the government's resolve to hold the election on time.

Abdul-Hussein Hendawi also said demands that the vote be postponed could be met only if political consensus is found, since the country had no legislation to adopt such a move.

For Iraq's Shiites — about 60 percent of the population — the vote could herald an end to centuries of oppression at the hands of Sunni Arabs, a minority that enjoyed the backing of former Ottoman and British colonial masters and, until last year, Saddam Hussein's patronage.

Voters will choose a 275-member assembly that, among other things, will draw up a permanent constitution. If adopted in a nationwide referendum, the document would serve as basis for another general election by December 2005.

With so much riding on the election, al-Sistani has been working to unite the Shiites ahead of the vote to ensure victory. The Iranian cleric is oversee-

ing the work of top aides seeking to compile a 165-candidate list that would be put to the voters nationwide.

Under an election law adopted this year, there will be no electoral boundaries for the January vote, with the entire country treated as a single constituency. A system of proportional representation will be applicable, with voters asked to cast ballots for independent candidates or slates of at least 12 candidates.

But al-Sistani's efforts to persuade Allawi to join his ticket have so far failed, according to people close to the Shiite cleric.

Allawi, a secular Shiite, remains adamant to go it alone with his own list of candidates, even after al-Sistani recently sent a top Shiite politician to try to win him over.

The Shiite insiders, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Allawi's refusal may in part be because his rival, senior Shiite politician Ahmad Chalabi of the Iraq National Congress, is on al-Sistani's ticket.

Another reason could be that the prime minister is trying to cultivate an image as a national, rather than sectarian, leader to win support outside Shiite ranks.

The Shiite insiders said they could not rule out a change of heart by Allawi, whose Iraq National Accord includes both Shiites and Sunni Arabs, as well as Kurds and former members of Saddam's Baath party.

"At the end, he may feel the need for al-Sistani's support," said one Shiite familiar with the meeting between the prime minister and al-Sistani's envoy.

"But right now, he's riding on a series of diplomatic and military victories against his critics and might be playing hard to get in the hope of winning concessions."

Email Santa your wishlist

Send your wishlist to
SantaC@mail.strips.osd.mil

Include a return mailing address and Santa will respond with a personalized postcard in the mail. Children's names may also appear in the "News from the North Pole" section of the European edition of STARS AND STRIPES on the December 20th & 21st. Wishes must be emailed before December 15th.



Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.strips.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Please visit the site at www.strips.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper



IN THE STATES

Storm strands thousands at Nevada airport



Jim Dias, of Livermore, Calif., right, walks through the snow Saturday with his friend, Chantal Vanrooyen of South Africa, on a downtown street in Reno, Nev. A storm system dumped up to 18 inches of snow on the area, leaving thousands of holiday travelers stranded.

Officials blame Reno shutdown on broken FAA equipment

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH

The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Thousands of passengers were grounded during a snowstorm at Reno-Tahoe International Airport on its busiest weekend of the year.

At nearby Lake Tahoe and elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada, the storm dumped up to 18 inches of snow and delayed thousands of Thanksgiving holiday motorists heading over mountain passes.

Sixty-nine flights at the airport were canceled or delayed during a seven-hour period Saturday after a malfunction in equipment used to guide pilots when visibility is poor, spokesman Brian Kulpin said.

The instrument landing system is maintained and operated by the Federal Aviation Administration, which fixed the problem after the storm had left up to 6 inches of snow in Reno.

Travelers were urged to contact their airlines before heading to the airport because delays were expected to continue. Kulpin said some passengers might not be able to get a flight from Reno until Tuesday because flights are booked solid Sunday and Monday.

"This has such a ripple effect throughout the system," Kulpin said. "It has impacts on other airports because there are people stranded at other airports."

The Sunday after Thanksgiving traditionally is the airport's busiest day of the year, with about 10,000 passengers using the facility.

Kulpin said airport officials were livid because it was the second time this month the instrument landing system malfunctioned during a storm.

"This is an awful way to treat the flying public and it's all because of the FAA," he said.

FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer in Seattle said a

combination of bad weather and equipment failure caused the FAA to suspend flights in and out of the airport.

The cause of the equipment failure is under investigation, but it appears a heavy buildup of snow on an antenna contributed to it, he said. The storm restricted departures by causing planes to have to undergo deicing, he added.

"Believe me, we understand the people's frustrations and we appreciate their cooperation during the delay," Kenitzer said.

"But safety is our number one priority and safety was never compromised during this time."

The storm also caused problems on the highways.

Authorities reported more than 100 minor traffic accidents in the Reno-Tahoe area, and said a stalled bus on Interstate 80 near Truckee, Calif., backed up east-bound traffic.

The storm knocked down electrical lines in several Northern California counties and left nearly 11,000 customers without power, including 6,700 in Oakland and Berkeley, and 2,100 in Carmel.

Sierra Pacific Power Co. officials reported small, scattered outages affecting hundreds of customers in the Reno-Tahoe area.

In Southern California, the storm brought less than a quarter-inch of rain in most areas but was blamed for one death. A car ran into a tree that was toppled by gusting winds in Lancaster north of Los Angeles, killing the driver and injuring a 16-year-old passenger, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Meanwhile, in Ontario, the driver of a tractor-trailer was killed when he lost control of the vehicle in the rain, plunging over the side of a highway, according to the California Highway Patrol.

"This is an awful way to treat the flying public and it's all because of the FAA."

Brian Kulpin

Reno-Tahoe International Airport spokesman

Pentagon Car Sales
salutes the men and women of the
US Armed Forces serving in Iraq. Our thoughts and prayers
are with you for a speedy and safe return to home and family.
May God bless you and the United States of America

We would like to show our support by sponsoring **Free Stars & Stripes** newspapers
for Operation Iraqi Freedom service members. Available at the Landstuhl Regional
Medical Center & the General Von Steuben Hotel, Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Pentagon Car Sales

www.PentagonCarSales.com

SEND HOLIDAY WISHES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Greetings and photos will publish
in the **STARS AND STRIPES** Middle East edition
on December 16th

Send a greeting by visiting www.stripes.com
and clicking on the Holiday Messages button.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

2" x 2" greetings
with photo: \$49

(actual size)

Text only greetings:
FREE OF CHARGE!



Senator: Intel bill needs Bush pressure to pass

BY JENNIFER C. KERR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fate of an overhaul of U.S. intelligence agencies rests with President Bush, who must exert more pressure on holdout Republicans if he wants compromise legislation to pass this week, a lead Senate negotiator said Sunday.

"If the president of the United States wants this bill, as commander in chief in the middle of a war, I cannot believe Republicans in the House are going to stop him from getting it," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., on ABC's "This Week."

But two powerful opponents of the deal, GOP Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, are

showing no signs of wavering on a measure intended to put in place recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission.

Hunter, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has expressed concerns that the intelligence realignment could interfere with the military chain of command.

Sensenbrenner, head of the House Judiciary Committee, wants the bill to deal with illegal immigration.

The chairman of the Sept. 11 commission, Thomas Kean, said separate legislation, debated at a later time, could address those concerns.

Kean, a former Republican governor from New Jersey, joined with Lieberman in urging Bush to press harder for passage.

With the overhaul stalled after months of negotiation, the crucial question "is whether it will pass now or after a second attack," Kean said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The legislation passed the Senate almost unanimously, but House Speaker Dennis Hastert pulled the bill from consideration following objections from Hunter and Sensenbrenner just before the House adjourned for Thanksgiving.

If lawmakers fail to pass an overhaul this year, they will have to start from scratch next year. With a new Congress taking office in January, bills that failed to pass in the current session expire and new lawmakers and committee leaders would have to consider any new legislation.

Rice confirmation hearings delayed

WASHINGTON — At the White House's request, confirmation hearings for Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state will not begin until Congress reconvenes in January, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday.

When President Bush nominated his national security adviser to replace Colin Powell at the State Department, Sen. Richard Lugar said he would try to

bring his committee together in the first week of December to begin the Rice confirmation process.

He predicted Rice's nomination will draw strong support in the Senate and will have no difficulty being approved.

Lugar did not say why the White House considered early hearings inappropriate. The resignation of the 67-year-old Powell was presented as part of an overhaul of Bush's cabinet for his second term.

From The Associated Press

THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



FULL-TIME

ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE (AGR)

GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE

- The Army National Guard has job openings in several locations across the United States in support of Ground-based Midcourse Defense
- The following military occupational specialties, billets and AFSCs are immediately available:
Army - 31A, 31B, 14A, 14J
Navy - GM0811, GM0812, PR7354, MA
Air Force - 3P0X1
Marines - 5811, 5814, 5815, 5819
- These positions are three year Active Guard Reserve (AGR) ours and open to current military service members, male and female, from all branches of the military service
- Pay grades range from E-2 to O-4



To view other job openings visit:

www.arnng.army.mil/misiledefense

Call Toll Free 1-877-463-1010

Or your GMD representative

(571) 237-0871 • (202) 345-3870



The Athos I tanker is shown Saturday between a dry dock station, listing on the Delaware River near Paulsboro, N.J. The tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of heavy crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey on Friday.

Tanker spills crude oil in Delaware River

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A tanker spilled 30,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, creating a 20-mile-long slick that killed dozens of birds and threatened other wildlife, federal officials said Saturday.

Private contractors were called in to skim oil from the surface of the water and place thousands of feet of boom to contain the floating slick.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said 50 birds were dead from the spill and 300 others were affected; fish also were threatened. A stretch of the busy river was closed to commercial and rec-

reational traffic while the spill was being cleaned up.

Two tugboats were guiding the ship to a pier Friday night when a tugboat skipper noticed the spill, said Coast Guard Capt. Jonathan Sarubb, officer in charge of the Port of Philadelphia.

The crew notified the Coast Guard and began transferring oil from the leaking tank to another tank on board. The leak was stopped within an hour.

The cause of the spill was still under investigation, Sarubb said.

The tanker, the Athos I, registered in the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, was carrying 325,000 barrels of oil from Venezuela, said Jim Lawrence, a spokesman for the vessel's owner, Greek shipping company Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA.

Md. governor bans officials from speaking to reporters

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland's governor says his order that state officials stop speaking with two reporters for The Baltimore Sun was "meant to have a chilling effect" on two writers he believes "have no credibility."

The ban was intended to set a benchmark for the minimum level of accuracy expected of newspaper coverage of his administration, Gov. Robert Ehrlich said in an interview on WBAL radio.

"At what point does a monopoly newspaper abuse its privilege, its First Amendment privilege, in making things up, making quotes up, making context up?" the first-term Republican governor said Friday. "I just said this is our minimum benchmark."

Sun attorney Stephanie Abrutyn said the newspaper disagrees with Ehrlich's description of the two reporters' credibility and called his explanation of the ban "troubling."

On Nov. 18, the governor's press office sent a memo to all state public information officers

ordering that no one in the executive department and state agencies speak with Sun State House Bureau Chief David Nitkin or columnist Michael Olesker, noting two instances in which the governor's staff believed Nitkin and Olesker were unfair in their coverage.

In a column, Olesker wrote that the governor's communications director, Paul Schurick, struggled "mightily to keep a straight face" at a hearing when saying that political gain was "not a consideration" in making state tourism commercials that feature the governor.

The governor's staff complained that Olesker didn't attend the hearing and couldn't have known the expression on Schurick's face.

Olesker said the reference was intended to be read metaphorically, not literally.

The second complaint involved a map the Sun published of state land the Ehrlich administration was considering selling. The map incorrectly highlighted all 450,000 acres of state-owned preservation land. A correction ran in the next day's newspaper.

Missing pilot found in Alaska after 5 days

BY RACHEL D'ORO

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A pilot missing since Monday was found alive Saturday afternoon in a remote southern Alaska bay, in good shape and upbeat spirits, the Alaska National Guard said.

Michael Holman was spotted by Coast Guard crew members in a C-130 transport plane during a training exercise near Homer,

said Maj. Chris Kobi, with the National Guard's Rescue Coordination Center. The crew picked up a distress call the 46-year-old pilot made through his hand-held marine band radio.

The crew was able to see a bonfire Guard's built at Delish Bay, about 15 miles from Soldotna. He was outside the 4,000-square-mile area where searchers, hindered by wind, snow, rain and fog, had been looking for him.

Holman told the crew he had plenty of food, water and other provisions and was staying inside a cabin. Wind and approaching darkness prevented rescuers from picking Holman up Saturday, the National Guard planned to take him to Anchorage on Sunday.

"I've been saying all along we had to be optimistic," Kobi said. "So many of these cases have very, very strange outcomes, you

just can't write them off."

Since Holman, of Wasilla, has not been personally interviewed, Guard officials said details remained sketchy about the chain of events since he flew out from Palmer on Monday, headed for Soldotna.

They weren't sure about the fate of his Maule ML-7 aircraft, though additional reports said that for some reason the plane washed out or was destroyed,

Kobi said.

Searchers always held out hope for Holman, an experienced pilot who has flown for United Airlines and who had survival gear on board.

"Once again, fact is better than fiction," National Guard Maj. Mike Haller said. "Another Alaskan walks away from a serious incident and survives to see his family and hug them again another day."

Boston Zoo shows off 3-day-old gorilla

BY THEO EMERY

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Dozens of people crowded into the Franklin Park Zoo's indoor "tropical forest" on Saturday for the debut of its newest celebrity resident: a tiny, 3-day-old, western lowland gorilla.

Kiki the gorilla ambled from her nighttime quarters with her 4-pound baby tucked under her arm, as the crowds rushed from window to window to follow her movements. She eventually settled into a bed of straw, nibbling carrots, before

laying down for a nap with the baby cradled in her arm.

The baby does not have a name yet. Its gender will not be known for several months until zoo officials can examine it without upsetting Kiki, said John Linehan, the zoo's president and CEO.

"Kiki has just hugged onto this baby since it was born."

John Linehan

Zoo's president and CEO

sometimes she stays away from us. She just seems to be reveling in motherhood," Linehan said.

Zoos have become adept at successfully breeding captive gorillas. Linehan said the zoo's newest gorilla will be an important learning experience for the six other gorillas at the facility, and for visiting children who can follow the primate's progress.



Kiki, a western lowland gorilla, cradles her 3-day-old baby at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston on Saturday. The baby, fathered by zoo resident Kitombo, hasn't been named yet because it can take a couple of months before the gender of a baby gorilla can be determined.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.3692
British pound	\$1.94
Japanese yen (Nov. 29)	101.00
South Korean won (Nov. 27)	1,026.60
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	\$1.8951
Canada (Dollar)	1.7168
Denmark (Krone)	5.6162
Egypt (Pound)	2.15
Euro	\$1.329
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.723
Hungary (Forint)	187.13
Island (Krona)	6.23
Israel (Shekel)	4.7383
Japan (Yen)	109.59
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	13.96
Philippines (Peso)	56.35
Poland (Zloty)	3.72
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0362
South Korea (Won)	1,040.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1362
Thailand (Baht)	19.84
Turkey (Lira)	1,438,571.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For non-currency exchange rates, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference only. buying currency. All figures are foreign bank rates as of 4 p.m. except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile close	
Gold	\$439.39
Silver	\$7.632

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.00
3-month bill	2.25
30-day Treasury bill	2.49

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Stay safe when traveling

The Associated Press

It's the season of holiday travel, hectic year-end business trips and cheap fares to Europe — all of which can mean long flights and potential health considerations.

Among the most worrisome is deep-vein thrombosis, the potentially fatal blood clotting — also known as "economy-class syndrome" — that can occur when sitting immobile for long periods.

The clots can then break off and travel to the lungs, blocking a blood vessel there.

The December issue of Consumer Reports on Health, offers some tips to help avoid this malady.

There are some who are con-

sidered high-risk for thrombosis: pregnant women, those who have given birth recently or take birth control pills, people who have had surgery recently, smokers, the obese, those with varicose veins or swelling of the feet or legs and people with a history of blood-related cancers or heart disease.

Yet there are precautions you can take. Don't wear tight clothes on a long flight. Drink plenty of nonalcoholic beverages during and after your flight, stretch your calf muscles in your seat and take a trip up and down the aisles every hour.

Also, carry your own bottled water. Busy attendants on packed flights may not be able to come round as often as needed to stave off dehydration.

Shoppers treated after pepper spray incident

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Police were reviewing video camera footage to find out who discharged pepper spray inside an elevator at Toys R Us' crowded flagship store, sending at least three people to the hospital, authorities said.

Saturday afternoon's incident also left others with irritated eyes at the toy chain's Times Square store during the busy shopping weekend.

"I immediately could not breathe," Teresa Cassello told WNBC.

"I said 'I have to get out of here because I'm choking,' but there were so many people behind me that I couldn't get out."

It was unclear how many shop-

pers were affected. Firefighter Kevin Nolan said five people were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital and 17 others were treated at the scene or refused medical attention. Police said three people were taken to St. Vincent's and nine refused medical attention.

Two people were released from the hospital within hours while one remained for further treatment, hospital officials said.

Susan McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for Toys R Us, said the incident was under investigation but declined to elaborate. "We are cooperating fully with the police," she said.

The 110,000-square-foot store, which opened in 2001, features an 80-foot indoor Ferris wheel.

IN THE WORLD

Diplomats: Iran OKs nuclear deal

Nation drops demand to exclude centrifuges from full nuclear freeze

BY GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran agreed Sunday not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities that can yield weapons-grade uranium, in what diplomats described as an apparent about-face to avoid possible U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Diplomats, from the European Union and elsewhere, said the commitment, sent by letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, appeared to fulfill demands that Tehran include centrifuges in its total suspension of uranium-enrichment programs.

If it does, that would end a dispute that had threatened to escalate into possible referral of Iran to the U.N. Security Council for defying the agency.

An official from one of the countries on the 35-nation IAEA board was cautious, saying Iran in the past had insisted that "testing" centrifuges meant introducing uranium gas into them for enrichment. France, Germany and Britain, which worked out the Nov. 7 deal with Iran on suspension — say the freeze prohibits the Iranians running the centrifuges for any purpose.

A senior diplomat with nuclear expertise told The Associated Press the Iranian pledge appeared to contain no pitfalls and seemed to meet the European demands for full suspension.

“Referral to the U.N. Security Council would not be the end of the world.”

Hamid Reza Asafi
Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman

But it came with strings attached — a demand that France, Germany and Britain further water down the language of a draft resolution they wrote for adoption by the board of the IAEA on ways of policing the suspension, he said.

The letter was received by the IAEA — the U.N. nuclear agency — less than a day before its board was scheduled to reconvene in Vienna amid a building crisis on the issue of enrichment suspension.

The meeting was adjourned in disarray Friday. The pause was meant to give time for the Iranian government to approve a total freeze of its program, which can produce both low-grade nuclear fuel and weapons-grade material for the core of nuclear warheads.

Delegates were also to decide on further steps in policing Tehran's nuclear activities.

The dispute about what constituted full suspension had dominated the meeting.

Iranian officials had suggested the issue was not up for debate only hours before details emerged of their letter to the agency.

“Referral to the U.N. Security Council would not be the end of the world,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asafi told reporters in Tehran earlier Sunday — alluding to the possibility that the board would ask for Security Council involvement unless Iran accepted a total suspension that included the centrifuges.

The Europeans say the deal committed Iran to full suspension of enrichment and all related activities — at least while the two sides discuss a pact meant to provide Iran with EU technical and economic aid and other concessions.

But Iran comes to Thursday's opening day of the IAEA meeting with demands that it be allowed to run the 20 centrifuges — which can spin gas into enriched uranium — for research purposes.

Iran's letter came after weekend talks on the dispute between British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Hassan Rohhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and his country's point man on nuclear matters.

As the clock ticked down to Monday, EU officials and delegates spoke of the growing likelihood of tough action at the board meeting if Iran remained defiant — including the start of work on a harsh resolution that could include the threat of U.N. Security Council action.

Rebels wanted to kill Bush, Colombia says

BY ANDREW SELSKY
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's main rebel group asked followers to mount an assassination attempt against President Bush during his visit to Colombia last week, Defense Minister Jorge Uribe said. There was no evidence Saturday that rebels even tried to organize such an attack.

Uribe told reporters late Friday that informants said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, told followers to attack Bush during his four-hour visit in the seaside city of Cartagena last Monday, while he met with Colombian President Álvaro Uribe.

The defense minister, who is in no relation to the president, said security forces were on full alert during the visit. About 15,000 Colombian troops and police, along with U.S. troops and Secret Service agents provided security. There was no indication Bush's life was ever in danger.

Uribe did not say where the informants had heard about the purported order to attack Bush.

The Secret Service did not comment on security details, as is its policy.

Bush visited Colombia after attending a summit in Chile.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird

Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day



give the Gift of memories FOREVER

PERFECT FOR CHRISTMAS!

Go to www.StripesClub.com and click the TreasureKnit ad to order your personalized photo blanket today!

Ukrainian president calls for end to mass election protests

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — President Leonid Kuchma called on opposition demonstrators to end their four-day blockade of government buildings Sunday, saying compromise was needed to solve the political crisis that has engulfed Ukraine since its disputed presidential vote.

Representatives of the rival presidential candidates prepared to meet at the negotiating table again Sunday, a day after the opposition's hopes for a new vote got a boost from national lawmakers, who called the election invalid.

Western-leaning opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko, who claims he was cheated out of victory in the Nov. 21 run-off election, is demanding a new vote. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators have jammed downtown Kiev for a week to support him.

Saturday's declaration by parliament — approved by 255 of the 429 legislators present — was not legally binding, but it was a clear demonstration of rising dissatisfaction with an election intervention observers said was marred by fraud Kuchma, speaking at a National Security Council meeting, criticized the blockades of government buildings as a "gross violation of the law."

"Compromise is the only way to avoid unpredictable consequences," the outgoing president said.

Ivan Plushch, who is repre-

senting Yushchenko at the talks, told Ukraine's late television that "the sides have the constructive will to reach compromise."

Yushchenko said he was seeking a revote on Dec. 12 under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He has also demanded that the current 15-person Central Election Commission be replaced.

Election commission head Serhiy Kivalov said Saturday he was not opposed to new voting, but said that "before" he could accept such an emotional decision is taken, a commission must be created to analyze the work of the CEC.

Ukraine's Union news agency reported.

That position would be unlikely to please the Yushchenko camp, which wants to keep the revote momentum going. Braving wet snow and sleet, thousands of protesters have gathered in a sprawling tent camp along Kiev's central Khreshchatyk Street and independence Square. Field kitchens distribute hot food and tea.

Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot, speaking for the European Union, said that new elections were the "ideal outcome" to settle Ukraine's political crisis.



Kuchma

OPINION

War defined by choices, not moral absolutes

BY FRANK PIERSON

How news about war comes to the home front.

A group of Marines kill a wounded and unarmed Iraqi and walk away talking tough. I flash back to another war: World War II, New Guinea, 1944, leading a patrol behind Japanese lines, climbing out of the steaming coastal jungle at a South Pacific paradise named Aitape toward the snow-capped Owen Stanley mountains.

The trail is narrow, twisting up mud-slick hills so steep we reach for roots to pull ourselves up. I carry a 60-pound pack and a light carbine for this patrol. There have been no sightings of Japanese troops or activity for the three days we have been looking for them.

The radio isn't working. It pours down tropical rain every night, but last night we found a friendly native village where we slept under huts raised on poles.

The Army combat handbook for reconnaissance patrols makes it clear that if we are seen by other combatants or noncombatants we are to kill them; our safety depends on it. If the enemy were told we were in the area, it would, at the least, compromise our information and, at worst, lead them to hunt us down and kill us.

We know the people in the village where we spent the night hate the Japanese troops; we trusted them not to betray us. So we cautiously ate our K rations in front of them and shared our high-energy chocolate bars with their children.

Perhaps we should have hidden ourselves from them, for their protection as well as our own. But we didn't. In the morning we woke up and left them and sweated through the next leg of the patrol.

Now our Piper Cub spotter plane flies over us and drops new batteries for the radio and more K rations. The Japanese—if there are any—know where we are now. After 40 miles and three days of sweating through 90-degree heat and almost 100 percent humidity, they can smell us a mile away.

Then we see the yellowish-tan uniform by the waterfall. It is an officer. He is curled asleep on his side by the falls, his head on his backpack, his rifle by his side. At first I think he had died there.

But we freeze, staring at him, and we see the faintest movement of breath. For what seems an eternity we stand like statues, barely breathing ourselves. I think: Why didn't he hear us coming? The waterfall rushing beside him has screened out our footfalls. I look back—the guys are all staring at him, nobody moving. We can't be sure he hasn't heard us and is faking sleep.

This is our first combat tour. We haven't yet killed anyone, we haven't seen death or dead bodies. He is the first Japanese we have seen.

This is also an intelligence mission. Japanese prisoners are extremely rare and highly prized for what information they might give about the true condition of their forces. But we are only three men, and our mission is to go by stealth deep into the interior of the island. To move with a prisoner for another week of cutting through jungle brush, wading in hip-deep swamps, climbing when we got to the mountains, would be impossible.

To extinguish that life is to end a uni-

verse. A sense of my own death sweeps through me, a darkness reaching out to the end of time while we have stood here for seconds, and all this hurricane of thought and feeling roars in my head.

I think, should we wake him up, so he will know what is happening to him when we shoot him? No, let it happen so he slips unaware from his little sleep into eternal darkness.

I hand signal to my second behind me. He very quietly raises his carbine, silently releases the safety and fires a single shot. The Japanese officer's body jumps

with the impact; he turns, rolls, and for one single second his eyes open wide in astonishment as he sees us. A second shot throws him on his back, his legs thrash then slow to twitching and then lie still. The jungle goes silent.

We whip around, looking, listening for sounds of movement, answering shots. Blood threads crimson into the waterfall. Nothing.

I suddenly aware my heart is pounding, my chest gasping for air, I have not breathed for so long. Then bird songs. Breeze in the tree canopy high above. Far away a monkey complains. Behind me, the guys slump, leaning back against their packs. They smoke. The Japanese officer's face is peaceful but slewed away from the head wound.

In the moments that followed, I stripped his insignia from his uniform, noted that his weapon is rusted, dirty, that his uniform was muddy, his boots worn and unpolished, he was skeletally thin. He had been surviving alone for some time. I pulled a

sweat-soaked wallet from his backpack. His name and rank and unit. Photographs. A young and pretty wife. A child, a boy maybe 5 or 6. An infant. A life. In one picture: trees, a neat park-like setting, peace. A sadness overcame me, and perhaps it has never left me.

I turned away and left him sleeping by his waterfall.

I've thought of him often in the nearly 60 years since. In one sense, he and the young wife and children live on in my memory, always young, always smiling into a future they could not know. They

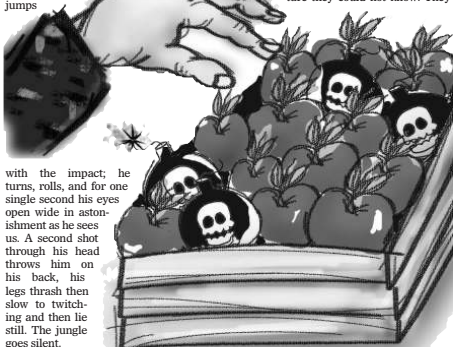


ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHTYNKE/Stars and Stripes

will be alive and not rest until I am gone.

A few days later, when we came back down the mountain past the waterfall, he was gone, probably dragged away and his bones scattered by wild animals, like everything else in that jungle reduced to bare bones in days or even hours. His rifle and backpack were gone, incidental bounty of war for the native hunters. All of that world is gone. Even the lovely cove of the village of Aitape was washed away in a tidal wave some years ago.

It was our job to hunt down and kill each other; it was also our responsibility to ourselves as humans to hold tight to a sense of honor, a sense of respect for the enemy soldier that is the root of rules of war and the Geneva Conventions.

The officer was a soldier, and if I hope to have mercy when it is possible in the savagery of war, and circumstances permit, I owe him respect as an equal.

In World War II there was rightful outrage at the mass executions of our troops captured by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge. There is no doubt that the rage of battle drives soldiers on both sides to inhuman acts, massacres, casual executions like that of those Marines in Fallujah. War is hell, but it is not an excuse to descend into savagery.

That war is hell is a challenge—the highest and most difficult challenge is to behave well in the face of everything that drives us toward revenge, retribution, toward the worst in ourselves. War demands that we be and act at our best and most noble or else all is lost, and we become our very worst. To maintain one's moral balance in the desperation and confusion of combat is the measure of military discipline, of humanity, of maturity.

The outrages at Abu Ghraib are not the answer to the lynching of the Americans on that bridge in Fallujah. And though I differ with President Bush on almost everything else, the president responded to the news from Abu Ghraib with righteous anger and moral passion when he said, "This is not America. This does not represent our values."

It was his finest hour, the words of a worthy leader and a commander of men and women in war.

I don't know that our killing, a minor incident in a war that killed tens of millions, represents any summit of good behavior.

Perhaps because it was our first kill of many to come we were especially aware of the enormity of taking a life. We were not yet numb to the carnage. Did we behave well? We followed our orders. We cared. And what we took from that officer I carry with me forever.

I won't judge those trash-talking Marines. I only hope they remember that bloody, defeated man they reduced to a corpse as something more than meaningless residue of battle. Or the battle itself is meaningless.

Frank Pierson wrote "Cat Ballou," "Cool Hand Luke" and "Dog Day Afternoon," among other films, and is president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



©2004 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Gunmen kill 3 aid workers in Afghanistan

BY NOOR KHAN
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gunmen stormed the office of an Afghan relief organization early Sunday, killing three workers and wounding four police officers in a shootout, officials and the aid group said.

A spokesman for the former ruling militia said it carried out the attack and had executed a fourth man, but claimed it targeted only a police checkpoint.

The pre-dawn assault and the recently resolved kidnapping of three U.N. staffers highlight the

risks still facing reconstruction workers despite landmark elections that were designed to bring political stability three years following the Taliban's ouster.

Police said six vehicles carrying about 30 gunmen raced up to the office of the Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan in Delaram, a town in southwestern Nimroz province, early Sunday.

"A cook, a night watchman and another employee were asleep in the first room," said Najmuddin Mojaddedi, the group's regional head told The Associated Press. "The Taliban shot them dead."

Another watchman was missing, Mojaddedi said.

"The Taliban are just killing innocent people trying to help their country," Mojaddedi said. "I don't understand why they do this."

Local security forces who rushed to the scene engaged the gunmen for about an hour. Four police officers were injured before the militants withdrew with their vehicles, deputy police chief Mohammed Rassoul said.

Mullah Abdul Hakim Latifi, a man who claims to speak for the Taliban, insisted the attack was against a government checkpoint

and that all the victims were soldiers. He said the missing man had been executed.

Latifi also said Taliban militants detonated the bomb which slightly injured three German soldiers in northern Afghanistan on Friday.

"We will continue to attack the United States and its allies, because they have occupied our Islamic country," he said.

His claims could not be verified.

Sunday's three reported fatalities were the first aid workers in Afghanistan since Aug. 3, when two Afghans working for the Ger-

man Malteser agency died in a hail of gunfire in southeastern Pakhtia province.

More than 40 relief and reconstruction workers have died this year, restricting the flow of international assistance to the impoverished south and east, where the militants are defeating an 18,000-strong U.S. military force.

Mojaddedi said his group would have to decide whether to pull out of the region, where it has worked for 14 years on agricultural projects.

In Delaram, it distributes seeds on behalf of the U.N. World Food Program and builds schools and wells with the help of Dutch and Italian relief groups.

China mine explosion trapped at least 166

BY AUDRA ANG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — An explosion tore through a coal mine in central China on Sunday, sending smoke billowing from air vents and trapping at least 166 miners in tunnels and shafts below without communications, the government said.

Some 127 workers managed to escape the state-owned mine, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing the State Bureau of Production Safety.

The blast rocked the state-owned Chienjiasan coal mine in Shaanxi province, about 720 a.m., when 293 workers were underground, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The explosion was centered about 300 meters from the mine entrance, it said.

Most of the miners who escaped were working close to the entrance, Xinhua said, and many suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning. Some 41 were hospitalized.

Witnesses said they saw "huge amounts of thick smoke pouring from the mine's ventilation

vents," hampering rescue efforts, according to the Web site of the Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper.

Staff at Chienjiasan said communications with the trapped miners were cut off, the site said.

On its evening newscast, state television

showed ambulances rushing to the scene as huge crowds of people gathered outside the mine's main gate.

President Hu Jintao urged rescuers to employ "all effective measures" to save the trapped workers, China Central Television said.

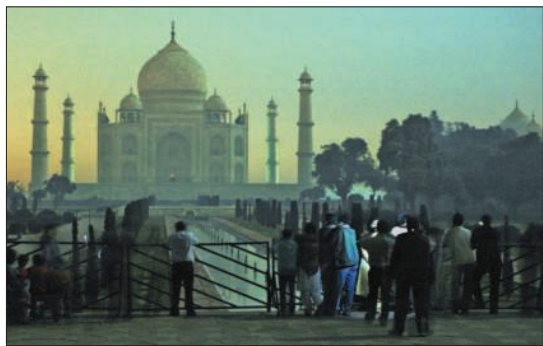
Premier Wen Jiabao, who arrived at the ASEAN summit in Laos on Sunday, said he was "extremely upset" over the accident.

He said the cause of the explosion would be thoroughly investigated and the government will continue to push for safer working conditions in the mines.

China's mines are the world's most dangerous, with thousands of deaths reported every year due to explosions, fires, cave-ins and flooding often blamed on lax safety rules and lack of required equipment.



A woman cries Sunday as she waits for a news about a loved one trapped in the Chienjiasan coal mine in Tongchuan, northwest China's Shaanxi Province.



Tourists view the Taj Mahal at night in Agra, India. The Taj Mahal was opened for the first time in 20 years to nighttime tourists after the government had banned nighttime visits in 1984 out of fears that it could be targeted by Sikh separatists.

Taj Mahal reopens to nighttime visitors

BY MICHAEL MORAIN
The Associated Press

AGRA, India — The moonlit view through the arched gateway, entrance to what may be the world's greatest monument to love, was enough to silence even the chafiest visitor.

Taj Mahal was opened for the first time in 20 years to nighttime tourists, there was plenty of silence.

"It was really beautiful," said Rita Sinha, a visitor from the northern Indian city of Lucknow. "There was a sense of peace and rest."

Night visits to the 17th-century marble mausoleum were banned by the government in 1984 out of fears that it could be targeted by Sikh separatists. Though the Sikh militant movement was crushed long ago, it was only Thursday that a Supreme Court ruling finally reopened the grounds — built by a long-dead ruler in memory of his wife — to tourists after dark.

For five nights each month, around the time of the full moon, visitors will be allowed inside the perimeter wall to see the Taj — albeit from a special platform set up about 300 yards away from the actual building.

Security remains tight, unsurprisingly for a building that is one of the most famous on the planet and the best-known symbol of India. Some 225 police officers guarded the site and visitors had to pass through two separate checkpoints.

Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the Taj Mahal to memorialize his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died from complications arising from the birth of their fourteenth child. The monument, which took more than 20,000 laborers and 22 years to complete, from 1632 to 1654, marked its 350th anniversary earlier this year.

Sharon says he's ready to work with new Palestinian leaders on Gaza withdrawal

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in an interview published Sunday he is ready to coordinate Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip to take advantage of new opportunities created by the death of Yasser Arafat.

In separate interviews with Newsweek magazine, both Sharon and the interim

Palestinian leader, Mahmud Abbas, said they would be looking to meet after the Jan. 9 Palestinian presidential election.

The leaders also vowed to make efforts to restart the U.S.-backed "road map," a stalled peace plan that calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state next year.

The comments reflected the new atmosphere of reconciliation since the Nov. 11

death of Arafat, whom Israel accused of backing violence.

"I think there is an understanding that this is an opportunity that both sides cannot miss," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon.

The interviews by both leaders "offer a real sense of optimism that this window of opportunity can really be exploited to

move the process forward," Gissin said. "The goal is to return back to the road map to peace... and from there move to political negotiations."

Earlier this year, Sharon announced plans to withdraw from Gaza and four West Bank settlements as part of his "unilateral disengagement" plan from the Palestinians.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Mostly cloudy to mostly cloudy with rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy, with rain in the north. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with areas of dense fog in the morning. Highs in the mid-40s.

France: Mostly, mostly cloudy with rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s. South, cloudy with rain throughout the day, highs in the upper 50s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the mid-40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain in the morning. Highs in the mid-40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain showers in the morning and rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid-40s.

Northern Italy: Cloudy with areas of fog in the morning and rain throughout the day. Highs in the mid to upper 40s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with afternoon rain showers. Highs in the mid-60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with areas of dense fog in the morning. Highs in the mid-40s.

Norway: South west coast, mostly cloudy with rain in the evening. Highs in the upper 30s. Inland, mostly cloudy with snow in the evening. Highs in the upper 20s with lows in the teens.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain in the morning and rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 50s. Coastal highs in the mid 60s to low 70s.

Turkey: West coast, partly cloudy with isolated rain showers mid day. Highs in the upper 50s. Inland, mostly cloudy, partly cloudy with rain showers early. Highs in the mid to upper 50s.

European forecast for 29 November 2004



AFRICA

Capa Town	HI 40	LO 12	Mogadishu	HI 40	LO 12
Dakar	75	62	Nairobi	87	77
Freeport	80	73	Rabat	71	54
Kinshasa	86	73	Tripoli	74	50

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI 40	LO 12	Manila	HI 87	78
Bahran	72	57	Mexico City	76	48
Beijing	47	27	Montreal	46	30
Bombay	86	68	Riyadh	67	49
Bermuda	74	65	Rio de Jan	85	75
Buenos Aires	61	39	Sao Paulo	80	65
Hankou	72	50	Sofia	50	35
Hong Kong	77	65	Sydney	83	69
London	64	55	Tokyo	58	50

Incirkil	55/37	TURKEY	Baghdad	63/41	IRAQ	Tehran	53/39	IRAN	Zahedan	64/30	PAKISTAN	Kandahar	66/37	INDIA	Hyderabad	85/58	Bombay	82/68	CHINA	Dubai	81/69	OMAN
Tel Aviv	67/49	ISRAEL	Cairo	71/52	EGYPT	Kuwait City	64/47	KUWAIT	Dhahran	66/49	Saudi Arabia	Manama	81/69	QATAR	Abu Dhabi	81/69	UAE	Dubai	81/69	UAE	Dubai	81/69

MIDEAST

A map of the Middle East and Central Asia region, showing major cities and their coordinates. The map includes the following cities and coordinates:

- Ashgabat 56/35
- Kabul 63/26
- Kandahar 66/37
- Islamabad 67/46
- New Delhi 78/52
- Zahedan 64/30
- Hyderabad 85/58
- Bombay 82/68
- Karachi 87/68
- Dubai 81/69

The map also shows the borders of several countries, including UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, and IRAN. Major cities like Tehran, Baghdad, and Damascus are also labeled.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://www.sembach.af.mil> <http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

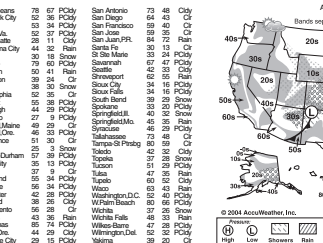
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:00 AM	6:02 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:00 AM	8:02 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:58 PM	4:56 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:28 PM	4:27 PM

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	HI 40	LO 12	Cleveland	43	33	City	Hamburg	51	31	City	New Orleans	78	67	City	San Antonio	73	48	City
Alaska	40	20	Colorado Springs	43	33	City	Hartford	51	31	City	New York City	82	36	City	San Diego	73	43	City
Alaska	40	20	Columbia, S.C.	62	42	City	Houston	80	34	City	Newark	53	34	City	San Francisco	59	40	City
Alaska	40	20	Columbus, Ohio	66	48	City	Indianapolis	85	73	City	Norfolk	52	37	City	San Jose	64	35	City
Alaska	40	20	Dayton	83	65	City	Jacksonville	74	50	City	North Platte	28	11	City	Seattle	84	72	City
Alaska	40	20	Dallas-Ft. Worth	81	61	City	Kansas City	69	49	City	Oakland	59	34	City	St. Louis	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	Denver	83	65	City	Las Vegas	71	53	City	Omaha	50	31	City	St. Mary's	33	24	City
Alaska	40	20	Detroit	78	60	City	Los Angeles	69	49	City	Portland	50	41	City	St. Paul	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	El Paso	63	43	City	Memphis	59	39	City	Rochester	50	31	City	St. Peter	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	Fort Worth	81	61	City	Minneapolis	59	39	City	Salt Lake City	50	31	City	St. Vincent	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	Grand Rapids	63	43	City	Mobile	59	39	City	San Francisco	59	34	City	St. Vincent	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	Green Bay	63	43	City	Montgomery	69	50	City	San Jose	64	35	City	St. Vincent	63	33	City
Alaska	40	20	Green Bay	63	43	City	Montgomery	69	50	City	San Jose	64	35	City	St. Vincent	63	33	City

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



As of noon, Eastern U.S. time.

Birds separate high temperature zones for the day.

Scheduled to

ET or

PC?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

Cell-phone sting

VA CULPEPER — One phone call got Kenneth Settle Jr. and his cousin in both sent to jail.

The two were arrested when police said they phoned a drug dealer to place an order during a police drug sting operation.

When the suspected drug dealer's cell phone rang during the Blue Ridge Drug Task Force sting, a Culpeper town police investigator answered.

The caller said he wanted to buy \$50 worth of crack cocaine, according to Detective Troy Steele. The man gave his location and a description of the vehicle he was driving.

Two officers drove to the agreed meeting spot in the Southgate Shopping Center, identified the vehicle and found 21-year-old Settle and his 22-year-old cousin, Steven Settle, inside, Steele said.

The alleged drug dealer's cell phone was the last number called on a cell phone discovered in the vehicle, police said.

The Settles were both charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine.

Agency head to retire

MO JEFFERSON CITY — The head of Missouri's Emergency Management Agency said he'll retire at the end of the year. Jerry Uhlmann has run the agency for almost 12 years after serving for 32 years in the Missouri National Guard. Under his watch, the agency has responded to the state's largest floods, most costly winter storms and the most destructive series of tornadoes.

Hotel shuts down

NE NORTH PLATTE — The landmark Hotel Pawnee is scheduled to close Dec. 31, forcing 65 special-needs residents to find a new place to live. After decades as a prestigious hotel, the building was converted into a retirement home. For the last eight years it had housed people with mental illness or special needs. Owner Bob Parsons says the hotel loses about \$20,000 a month.

Island access limited

GA SEA ISLAND — The Sea Island Causeway will soon be closed to all but the wealthy residents who live there. The Glynn County commission voted to give up county ownership to all the roads on Sea Island and the formerly public causeway after residents said they aren't safe because of their wealth. The Sea Island Co. plans to put up a gate blocking access to the island.

Detention centers cited

NJ TRENTON — The state is warehousing nonviolent children and teens in overcrowded detention centers because there's nowhere else to place them, a study by the state Office of the Child Advocate says. The study calls for increased mental illness screening and other services. It says youths in the system who have serious emotional problems have inadequate access to mental health care.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Firefighters rehired

CA SACRAMENTO — Most of the firefighters who were to be fired for drinking on duty, giving joy rides and attending a porn-star costume ball will return to work, Fire Chief Julius "Joe" Cherry said.

Five of the nine firefighters who were sent letters of termination signed a "last chance contract" stipulating that they have to meet Fire Department standards for the next five years or they will be terminated without right to appeal.

"When we looked at all nine of them, took a balanced approach and listened to their arguments, we looked at five of them as salvageable employees," Cherry said.

Turkeys eat well

CT VOLUNTOWN — Two turkeys, spared from becoming dinner, have been treated to an early Thanksgiving feast.

The turkeys, named Dandelion and Sage, arrived at Michele and Charles Nash's six-acre farm. The couple is adopting them after they were left in a box at the front gate of a shelter that aims to keep turkeys off the holiday dinner table.

Upon arrival, the turkeys dined on a platter of salad greens and fresh cranberries, a pumpkin pie and baked winter squash.



In the nick of time

Maysville Police Officer Larry Farris, right, watches as Charlie Traxe, second left, and his son, Drew, second left, upright the clock that marks the location of their store, Traxe's Jewelers, in downtown Maysville, Ky.

The 6-month-old turkeys were dropped off at Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, N.Y., five months ago. Kate Walker, a coordinator who brought the turkeys to the Nash farm, said she believes they were never destined to survive past Nov. 25.

"We know they came from a factory farm because their beaks are cut," she said.

The turkeys should fear no more. Michele Nash and her husband have been vegetarians for the past three years, but still enjoy much of the traditional Thanksgiving feast, she said.

"Everything," she said, "but the turkey."

Rings found on beach

GA ATLANTA — Hurricanes that struck the Florida coast this year churned up more than sand along Daytona Beach. They also yielded gold — rings of gold 40 years old.

Two people are richer for it, after their high school class rings from the 1960s were found by Laurie Sprigg, a modern-day prospector using a metal detector.

Sprigg turned over Larry Mitchell's 1964 Clarkston High School ring, lost on spring break that year. "It was just a real big shock for me. That's 40 years. You just don't expect something to turn up," Mitchell said.

On a separate outing, Sprigg found a 1963 ring from Christian County High School, which she traced to Kentucky and then to Beth Townsend.

Townsend said she wasn't even aware that her ring had been lost in Florida, where she also had been on spring break.

Townsend, who works at a health food store and does counseling at her church, was struck by the fact that it took the storms to shift enough sand around that the ring was found.

"In counseling, we always say that in a crisis things get shifted. That happens in the natural world, too," she said.

Fruit fight

ME ROCKLAND — Fewer than 200 blueberry growers have filed claims for a share of a \$5 million settlement in a landmark price-fixing lawsuit.

As many as 800 growers could have been damaged by the price-fixing, according to the growers' attorneys.

"The pool of growers gets smaller once you peel off those who opted out of the suit in the beginning," said attorney William Robitsek. "Then there are growers who are still scared to death to be identified with this lawsuit, because the list of payouts will be published."

The number of claims — 176 statewide — was disclosed Tuesday by Justice Joseph Jabars. The 4-year-old case is nearing an end after Allen's Blueberry Freezer of Ellsworth agreed to pay \$1 million as its share of the settlement.

Growers who can show how many pounds of fruit they sold in each of the seasons between 1996 and 1999 have until Dec. 23 to join the lawsuit.



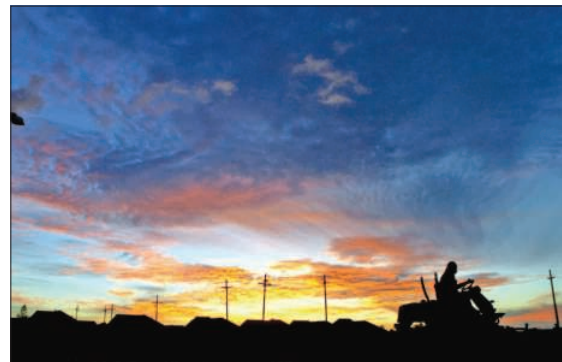
Fashion prepping Beth Bennett, an employee of the Yankers store in Dubuque, Iowa, dresses a store mannequin during one of the biggest shopping days of the year.



Winter wonderland The aspens show off their new coat of white after a snowstorm dropped 14 inches of snow on Steamboat Ski Resort in Colorado.



Music to my ears Catie Mungie, 11, of Marguard, Mo., practices her skills in front of a display of Monarch accordions at the Marriott Hotel in downtown St. Louis, where the St. Louis Metro Polka Club was holding its 15th annual Thanksgiving Weekend dance festival.



Sunset chores Wendell Pellgrin uses the last minutes of sunlight to mow the grass in the median of Civic Center Boulevard in Houma, La.



A bright scene Allen Neuman watches the lightning show from a balcony in Fort Smith, Ark., as storms move through the area.



Colorful illumination With the twist of the ring of a zoom lens at a slow shutter speed, the holiday lights that illuminate the Denver City/County Building streak through the night sky, as the annual lighting display was turned on for the first time this season in the Mile High City.



Practice makes perfect Dan Ryan with his son, Cade, 4, from Northern Illinois, ski at Granite Peak Ski Area at Rib Mountain in Wausau, Wis.

High-tech hospital

AL BIRMINGHAM — Baptist Health System, which once tried to stop HealthSouth Corp. from constructing a high-tech hospital in metro Birmingham, has joined with Sanford University in talks about purchasing the unfinished building. HealthSouth will have spent about \$190 million by the end of the year on the hospital, according to earlier estimates. Finishing the hospital will cost at least \$100 million more.

Rare foxes rebound

CA AVALON — A unique subspecies of fox that is about the size of a house cat is back from the brink of extinction and can survive on its own because of a captive breeding program, the head of a nonprofit nature group said.

With the release of the remaining foxes in the coming weeks, the program on Santa Catalina Island will end, said Ann Muscat of the Catalina Island Conservancy.

The conservancy, which manages most of the island, released five pups and four adult foxes Tuesday. The animals quickly scampered into the scrub-covered hills on the eastern end of Catalina.

There are now 300 of the foxes that will be monitored to make sure they don't again drop to a critical level, Muscat said. The Santa Catalina fox was nearly wiped out by an outbreak of canine distemper virus, causing the population to drop from 1,300 in the 1990s to just 100 four years ago.

Countersuits filed

NY NEW YORK — A woman who was sued by American Express over an alleged scam where she posed as a Saudi princess to steal thousands has countersued the company, saying she was mentally incompetent when she opened her account and the company should have known it.

The countersuit was filed by Antoinette Millard, 40, free on \$100,000 bail and awaiting trial on attempted grand larceny charges for alleged scams carried out while she posed as a Saudi Arabian princess and a Victoria's Secret model. She was neither.

Millard, a former vice president at the Brown Brothers Harriman investment bank, countersued for \$2 million in Manhattan's State Supreme Court after Amex obtained a court order of attachment freezing more than \$951,000 of her assets for unpaid charges.

The larceny charges against Millard stem from her allegedly trying to steal \$262,000 from an insurance company by falsely reporting that her jewelry had been stolen, the Manhattan district attorney's office said.

Fatal mistake

WA SEATTLE — A woman who underwent surgery for a brain aneurysm died after she was mistakenly injected with an antiseptic solution instead of a harmless X-ray marker dye, hospital officials say.

Mary McClinton, 69, had the operation Nov. 4 at Virginia Mason Medical Center and died Tuesday.

At the end of McClinton's operation, a technician was supposed to inject the dye into a leg artery. Instead, the syringe was filled with chlorhexidine, a highly toxic solu-

tion used to clean the skin, hospital quality chief Dr. Robert Caplan said. The solution "caused widespread damage to the organs of her body," Caplan said.

The hospital had recently switched from a brown iodine antiseptic to a colorless version. The marker dye also is clear, and the syringe was filled from an unlabeled cup containing the antiseptic.

Caplan said the cup of antiseptic has since been replaced with a swab on a stick.

Everyone involved in the mistake was removed from duty and retrained, along with the entire medical staff, officials said. The names of the technician and others involved were not released.

Ex-con on book tour

LA BATON ROUGE — Nearly two years after he served a six-month prison sentence, former Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown has completed a book chronicling the case that put him behind bars.

A federal jury convicted Brown for lying to an FBI agent about the liquidation of a failed insurance company. Brown, who has maintained his innocence, said he'll start a book tour next week in Shreveport.

Attacker sentenced

IL WAUKEGAN — A woman pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted murder and was sentenced to 30 years for her role in a sledgehammer attack that nearly killed her ex-husband and his new wife.

Sandra Rogers, 48, was accused of planning the May 2 attack with an 18-year-old acquaintance, Jonathan McMeekin, as she fought with her ex-husband for custody of their daughter, prosecutors said.

McMeekin, who also pleaded guilty to attempted murder, told police he went along with the plan because he wanted to resume dating Rogers' 14-year-old daughter. He said he went with Rogers the night of the attack, but she beat the couple with the hammer while they slept. McMeekin could face 12 to 35 years in prison.

Drug bust

NY MOREHEAD — A drug bust at Morehead State University resulted in 21 warrants issued for students. The law enforcement director for the anti-drug task force Operation UNITE says undercover narcotics officers worked on the case for about two months. He says they purchased marijuana and prescription drugs from the students who were arrested.

Cameras in patrol cars

AZ PHOENIX — Highway Patrol cars are being equipped with video cameras to record traffic stops and help settle a class-action lawsuit accusing the state Department of Public Safety of racial profiling. The cameras are part of a proposed settlement expected to be submitted to a federal judge for approval soon, DPS officials and a lawyer for the plaintiffs said. Approval would end a 3-year-old case that originated with traffic stops made along interstate highways in Cocoon County.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first screenshot page in the sports section or AFTS's Web site at <http://myaia.dodmedia.mil/>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004

	(AFL-FAMILY)	(AFL-MOVIE)	(AFL-EUROPE)	(AFL-KOREA)	(AFL-NEWS)	(AFL-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFL-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "A Family of Strangers" (1993, Drama) Melissa Gilbert, A woman awaiting surgery meets the man who saved her life.	Dr. Phil	Jocquelyn	The Billy Boyz	SportsCenter	30 Minute Meals	Jocquelyn
9:30	Savage-Sameer Cat		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News Watch	PGA Golf Men's LPGA Women's Golf	Paula's Home Cooking	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(N-6) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNWeek	Bulls and Bears	Game - Back Nine From La Quinta, Calif. (Taped)	Designers Challenge	ESPNWeek
10:30	Between the Lions "Help"		(33) Guiding Light	Advisory Board	Caruto on Business	Caruto on Business	Pharm Emergency	AFL Evening News
11:00	Savage-Sameer Cat		The Bachelor	The Bachelor	Not on CNN		The Bachelor	The Bachelor
11:30	Stanley Stanley studies from		(17) General Hospital	Headline News	Danline NBC	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	The Bachelor
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	The Bachelor	Good Morning America		Charmed "She Me"	The Bachelor
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy	The Bachelor				
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The End" (1993, Comedy/Drama) Alan Arkin. Friends reunite at their summer camp after 20 years.	Today Leonardo DiCaprio; Judge Law, Ryan Douglas.	The Bachelor		NBA Fastbreak		
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	The Bachelor		NFL Primetime	AFL Primetime	Pacific Report
14:00	Blue's Clues Body parts.		Pacific Report	The Tonight Show			Any Day Now "Don't Tell Me It's Not About Frankie"	The Tonight Show
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	The Tonight Show			ER Green's illness begins affecting his coordination.	Headline News
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	(2-5) Movie *** "The End" (1993, Comedy/Drama) Alan Arkin. Friends reunite at their summer camp after 20 years.	Aldrin "Do the Rat Thing" Chazelle	Headline News		College Football Teams to Be Announced.	Any Day Now "Don't Tell Me It's Not About Frankie"	The Tonight Show
15:30	Full House		Headline News	Headline News	Channel One		ER Green's illness begins affecting his coordination.	Headline News
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News	Headline News	The Early Show		Headline News	The Late Show
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 3 of 3)		Headline News	Headline News	SportsCenter		Headline News	The Late Show
17:00	Awah! Real Monsters	Access Hollywood	Headline News	Headline News			Headline News	The Late Show
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
19:00	Lizzie McGuire	Movie *** "Down to Earth" (2001, Comedy) Chris Rock, Regina King, Chazz Palminteri.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
19:30	Taina "Making the Band"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
20:00	Smallville "Zero"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
20:30	Boy Meets World	(4-2) Movie *** "Notting Hill" (1999, Romance) Julia Roberts, Hugh Grant. A book-seller and a movie star have an unlikely romance.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
21:00	Boy Meets World		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Inherit the Wind"	Movie *** "Breaking Away" (1979) Dennis Quaid	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
23:30			Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Headline News	The Late Show
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2004								
00:00	Hey Arnold!	(11-50) Movie *** "Break My Amy" (1999, Drama)	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(12-50) Movie *** "The Harder They Fall" (1956, Drama) Humphrey Bogart, Robert De Niro. A mob boss and a movie star have an unlikely romance.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
1:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
2:00	Lizzie McGuire		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
2:30	Taina "Making the Band"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
3:00	Smallville "Zero"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
3:30	Boy Meets World		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
4:00	Boy Meets World		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
4:30	Boy Meets World		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
5:30			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
6:00	Barney & Friends Exercise.		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
6:30	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
7:00	Dragon Tales The Fun House.		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
8:00	The Wiggles		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
8:30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
9:00	Stanley "Playful Problems"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
9:30	Savage-Sameer Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
10:00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
10:30	Between the Lions (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
11:00	Savage-Sameer Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
11:30	Stanley		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
12:30	The Wiggles		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
13:00	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
14:00	Blue's Clues "Geography"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
15:30	Full House		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
17:00	Awah! Real Monsters		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
19:00	The Proud Family		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
19:30	The Amanda Show		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
20:00	Everwood "The Prize of Fame"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
20:30	Sister, Sister "Dream Lover"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
21:00	Sister, Sister "Kid in Play"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
21:30	Sister, Sister "Dream Lover"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
22:00	The Cosby Show "The Great One"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
23:00	Touched by an Angel "An Angel's Name"		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
23:30			Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	The Hot List	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame

Read Stripes online at

www.strips.com

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

FACES

Linney is sexy in her 'own right'

BY JOE NEUMAIER

New York Daily News

Laura Linney is having a very sexy season. First, there was "P.S.," where she made a steamy impression, particularly in a sex scene where she remained fully clothed.

Now comes "Kinsey," in which she plays the drab wife of the legendary — and somewhat notorious — sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, played by Liam Neeson.

This is not the way most Hollywood actresses use their sensuality on screen, but Linney is not most Hollywood actresses. "I've always thought that I'm sexy in my own right, but not in a way that people thought was bankable," says the 40-year-old actress.

"I've outgrown that time for actors when that pressure is on you, or when people look at you with disappointment, because you're not as sexy as they'd like you to be — or you're sexy in a different way, which is how I look at it."

"Sexiness is undefinable, and a lot of it is being at ease with who you are and where you are in life."

Where Linney is now is amid a string of plum roles, in movies like "Mystic River" and "Love Actually," that followed her breakout performance in "You Can Count on Me," that 2000 indie movie brought her an Academy Award nomination for best actress. Now "Kinsey" is generating more Oscar buzz.

"This movie is an excellent reminder of our country's complex relationship to sexuality," she says. "It shows how sex is a really powerful thing and can be used to heal or hurt. It's an endlessly fascinating

topic."

Though Kinsey's wife, Clara McMillen, seemed like a buttoned-up faculty spouse, she was in fact an integral part of her husband's research, which involved wife-swapping — by Kinsey himself and by his staff (played in the movie by Peter Sarsgaard, Timothy Hutton and Chris O'Donnell). "Playing Clara made me think about all sorts of stuff," says Linney.

"I never really thought about how sex flavors a life, how it creates fear or can release you. It's about the choices you make in life, who you spend time with, what are you attracted to and why, and can you change that. Doing this movie, I'm sure, has affected my relationships, and for the better."

Linney grew up in Manhattan, the daughter of playwright Romulus Linney. Her parents divorced when she was a child, but Linney learned about theater from her father before studying acting at Juilliard.

She has continued to do theater, including Broadway roles in "Uncle Vanya" in 2000 and "The Crucible" in 2002, co-starring Neeson. Linney's film career started slowly, as she learned the craft of performing before a camera.

"I was just intimidated," Linney says. "I didn't know anything about film acting. I spent many years studying how to act on stage, and I knew it wasn't the same thing. So I was very fortunate that I had small parts in movies that let me feel out the terrain."

She co-starred in the miniseries "Tales of the City" in 1993, then starred opposite Richard Gere in "Primal Fear" and Jim Carrey in "The Truman Show."

Then came "You Can Count on Me."

"That movie was a treat, because there were no scary Hollywood studio guys asking, 'Is the chick sexy enough?'" she says.

"Nobody talked about if my hair was sexy enough. It was all about the work."

People have definitely been talking about how sexy Linney is in "P.S.," especially that one lovemaking scene.

"It's very sensual, and it makes some people uncomfortable," she says. "It's really intense in its eroticism. The camera focuses mainly on our faces, and it's so intimate."

In sharp contrast, Linney had to make a determined effort, including makeup and costumes, to downplay her natural attractiveness in "Kinsey."

"Some people get depressed wearing an ugly wig and makeup for a week, but I didn't feel that way," she says.

"I loved playing someone who saw life in such a vibrant way. And at the end of the day, when they'd brush my hair and get the prosthetics off, I'd look in the mirror a bit surprised, and say, 'Ooh, hi!'"

Actress Laura Linney has starred in a string of plum roles in movies such as "Mystic River" and "Love Actually" that followed her breakout performance in "You Can Count on Me." And her most recent film, "Kinsey," in which she plays the wife of legendary sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, is generating Oscar buzz.

SUSAN WATTS
New York Daily News

Charles honored with new exhibit

Less than six months after his death, Ray Charles may be more popular than ever with a movie about his life and a posthumously released album.

Now he is being recognized with an exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. "The Genius of Ray Charles" exhibit opened Nov. 19, and a reception to celebrate the opening is planned for Wednesday.

Charles' memorabilia is on loan from his Los Angeles studio and includes electronic keyboards, a saxophone, sunglasses and a collection of awards. The exhibit, expected to remain through Labor Day, also includes video recordings of his performances.

"Ray was very gracious for anything done for him," said Joe Adams, Charles' friend and business manager of 47 years. "He fussed about it, but he loved it. This would have been meaningful to him, definitely."

Charles, 73, died June 10 of liver disease. His final studio recording, "Genius Loves Company," is an album of duets that was released this year. His story is told in the movie "Ray," starring Jamie Foxx, now in statewide theaters.



Charles

'Cheers' actress home from hospital

"Cheers" alum Shelley Long was back home after being briefly hospitalized because she took a dose of medication to treat back pain and the drug made her ill, her manager said Friday.

"Shelley took an extra pain pill for her back, which she hurt when she fell on the set of 'Cheers' many years ago," Martin Mickelson said. "She had a reaction to it ... but she is now home and she is fine."

The actress, who played the prim and neurotic Diane Chambers on the hit 1980s sitcom, was treated overnight sometime within the last two weeks at the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center, Mickelson said.

"She had a nice 'hangover,'" he added.

Mickelson denied published reports Friday that suggested Long, 55, had apparently taken an overdose of painkillers brought on by the breakup of her 22-year marriage to stockbroker Bruce Tyson.

'Wall' kids suing Pink Floyd for royalties

Members of the children's chorus who sang on Pink Floyd's anti-authoritarian 1979 hit, "Another Brick in the Wall," are owed thousands of dollars in payment, a royalties agent said.

Peter Rowan said he was representing one member of the group, Peter Thorpe, in a bid for unpaid royalties. Rowan said he hoped other members of the group would join the claim for royalties from a fund set up in 1997 to compensate session musicians.

Two dozen students from Islington Green School in north London sang on the chart-topping track from the album "The Wall," which was recorded at a nearby studio in 1979.

The song attracted controversy for the chorus sung by the children: "We don't need no education/ We don't need no thought control/ No dark sarcasm in the classroom/ Teachers, leave them kids alone."

Welsh stars open new concert hall

Welsh stars past and present took center stage at the opening of a glittering new concert hall in the capital, Cardiff.

Today's stars, including baritone Bryn Terfel, paid tribute to entertainers including Shirley Bassey, soprano Gwyneth Jones and actor Richard Burton at Friday's opening of the Wales Millennium Centre.

The \$200 million slate, glass and steel building, "inspired by the landscape and by the industrial and cultural heritage of Wales," includes a 1,900-seat auditorium that will house the Welsh National Opera and facilities for a variety of arts and cultural organizations.

Dutch film wins top prize at film festival

Dutch film "Stand Van De Maan," which addresses increasing Islamic radicalism in Indonesia, won the top prize at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival.

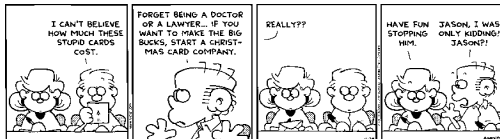
The festival is billed as the world's largest documentary festival, with more than 200 films shown over two weeks in Amsterdam theaters.

"Stand Van De Maan (Shape of the Moon)," directed by Leonard Retel Helmrich, recorded the story of an Indonesian Christian woman who leaves Jakarta for the countryside to avoid growing unemployment and increasingly fundamentalist Islamic sentiment in the city.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



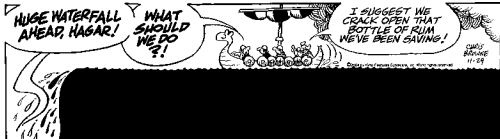
Blondie



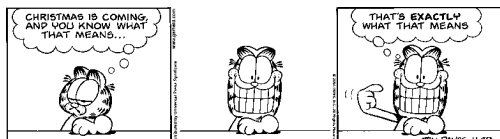
Dilbert



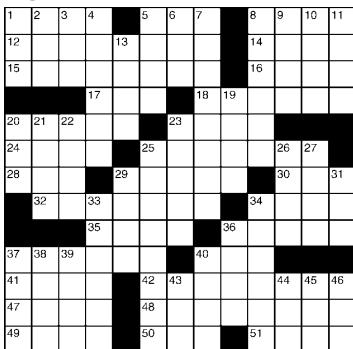
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



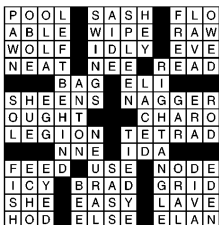
Across

- 1 Hemingway
- 5 Perch
- 8 Black, in verse
- 12 Connnotation
- 14 Caligula's nephew
- 15 Vendor
- 16 Dr. Seuss' off — the Zoo"
- 17 Diving bird
- 18 Bargain
- 20 Improve
- 23 Bacterium
- 24 Lose color
- 25 Chicken of the Sea symbol
- 28 Playground game
- 29 Sweetheart
- 30 The buck stops here
- 32 Deserved
- 34 Skin opening
- 35 Oodles
- 36 Re Ra
- 37 Stephen King's genre
- 40 Church seat
- 41 Chills and fever
- 42 ABC's Vieira
- 47 Diamond or Simon
- 48 Baldness
- 49 Say it isn't so
- 50 Pinch
- 51 Landlord's due

Down

- 1 Lap dog, for short
- 2 Rd.
- 3 Apiece
- 4 Obscure
- 5 Drench
- 6 Hostel
- 7 On a leash
- 8 Baffler
- 9 Titanic thwarter
- 10 By spoken word of mouth
- 11 Zilch
- 13 Sound of a dull impact
- 19 Host
- 20 Sternward
- 21 One often thanked
- 22 Advantage
- 23 Existentialist playwright
- 25 Streetcar driver
- 26 "American —" character
- 27 "David Copperfield"
- 29 Port city on the Big Island
- 31 Always
- 33 Almost never
- 34 Keg contents
- 36 Leak slowly
- 37 Applause
- 38 Curved molding
- 39 Destruction
- 40 Object on stage
- 43 Inventor
- 44 Bar supply
- 45 Stannum
- 46 Chapeau

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-29

CRYPTOQUIP

G T K S F V Q K U R G V G D Q S F
A G B B G F - V T F - L Q Q T
N T K Y K N V F Y E . A Q Z D U I Q Z

E K I G ' R V G X X F Y - T K L L I ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PODIATRIST
TURNS AGAINST SOMEBODY, I SUPPOSE HE
MIGHT BECOME AN ARCH ENEMY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

Rape at frat should be reported

Dear Abby: My 16-year-old daughter went to a party at a frat house where she was given a great deal to drink.

Feeling "woozy," she went outside. One of the "boys" she had been talking to went with her and suggested she go back to his room to lie down. She had known this fellow before that night and trusted him. She was drunk, and he had sex with her. It was her first time. She claims she tried to make him stop, but he wouldn't, and she couldn't make him.

Shouldn't the young man be punished in some way? I feel something should be done, and I also worry about him doing this to some other girl. Will this constitute date rape?

— Confused in Virginia

Dear Confused: You're darn

right it was date rape. And the "something" you should do is call the nearest rape crisis center and get help for your daughter. You should also inform the police. I'm sure they'll be interested to know that minors are being given alcohol and taken advantage of at that fraternity house, as well as the name of the man who assaulted your daughter. You're absolutely correct that he's likely to do it again.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I recently went through a difficult two-year divorce from "Jayson" after 10 years of marriage. My former mother-in-law, "Violet," now insists that I return the china that Jayson and I received during the marriage. I always thought a gift was just that — a gift.

Violet insists that the china be returned. She says it wasn't

from "my" family. I say it WAS my family — for 10 years. You see, Abby, Jayson left me. I was trying to work on our problems, but he wanted out. Now Violet is calling me a martyr and saying I have no right to the china.

I have informed Jayson and his mother-from-hell that the china is boxed and in storage, and that I'm saving it for our son. Am I wrong?

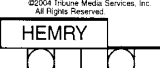
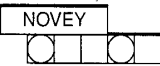
— Furious in Virginia

Dear Furious: When your son and his future bride are ready to set up a household, they'll want to select their own china. Of this you can be sure. If the china has to be your husband's family for generations, return it. If that's not the case, offer to let your former mother-in-law BUY it back.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can e-mail to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: " " " " " " " " " " " "

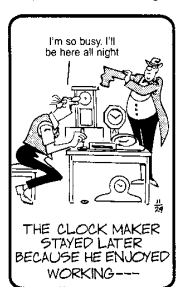
Saturday's

Jumbles: BANDY OPERA GOODLY HARBOR

Answer: Often used to pull the wool over her eyes — A GOOD "YARN"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



THE CLOCK MAKER STAYED LATER BECAUSE HE ENJOYED WORKING---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Upset over son cheating on wife

Dear Annie: I have a son, "Chris," age 23, who recently left for deployment to Iraq. He has an adorable wife of three years but no children. This girl is unbelievably sweet and absolutely crazy about my son.

When he left, they seemed so in love. However, while in training before he deployed, he went to a club with his buds and ended up going home with a young woman for the night. I raised Chris to have good morals, and he has never done anything like this before. Now he says he is in love with this new girl and wants a divorce as quickly as possible.

I am heartbroken over his poor decision. I e-mailed Chris, telling him how angry, saddened and disappointed I am, and how his decision has hurt so many people, not just his wife. Chris won't write back or call me, but he is writing and calling his dad, who by the way, did the same thing to me before our divorce.

My ex-husband thinks I am

Annie's Mailbox



horrible for judging Chris. Did I do the right thing to tell him how I felt and let him know the pain this has caused? I know this has brought up a lot of my own past, so I can't be sure I am really seeing things straight.

— Heartsick Mom

Dear Heartsick: It's understandable that you are upset, and there's no reason to hide it from Chris. It's painful when a child's marriage breaks up, especially since you are obviously fond of your daughter-in-law. However, Chris sounds rather immature. It's also possible that, facing deployment to Iraq, his reaction is to shed all previous entanglements.

You cannot fix these things. Chris must deal with them in his own way. Write your son a letter and tell him you love him and hope he returns home safely. Say nothing about his marriage or his current girlfriend. Encourage his wife to take advantage of the counseling services offered through the military, and be a limited, not-too-at-

tached source of support for her.

Dear Annie: I enjoy going to my women's gym, where everyone is friendly and the atmosphere is low-key. Last week, however, two of the women, speaking very loudly, began a rather personal conversation about a third woman, "Jean." They went on and on about Jean's house, family life and so on.

Perhaps you could remind folks that such conversations are in poor taste in public.

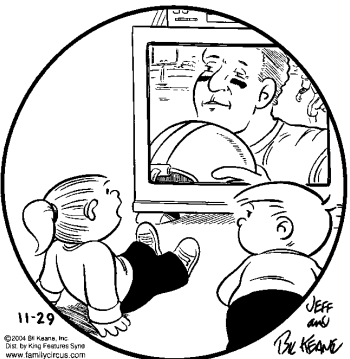
— Exerciser in Connecticut

Dear Exerciser: People don't always realize they can be heard or that others are listening. Bystanders should try their best not to notice. However, if other gym regulars know Jean, such gossip could find its way back to her. It would have been polite to discreetly point that out to these women.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

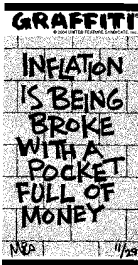
Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



11-29
©2004 by Neale, Inc.
Use by First Feature Syndicate
www.familycircus.com

"Somebody should tell that guy how to use eye shadow."

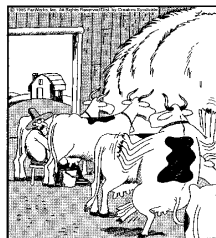


Domis the Menace



"MARGARET SAYS HER DAD IS AN AVID HUNTER, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN AN AVID, HAVE YOU?"

The Far Side



"Hey! I'm coming. I'm coming—just cross your legs and wait!"

Non Sequitur



"THE NEANDERTHAL BRINGS ALL OUR HUNTERS HERE. BECAUSE—YOU NEED A HUNTER TO LIVE. THE NEANDERTHAL BRINGS ALL OUR HUNTERS HERE. BECAUSE—YOU NEED A HUNTER TO LIVE."

STRIPE CLASSIFIED

advertise with STRIPES CLASSIFIED

PLACE A PRIVATE PARTY AD IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS ↓

1. Write an ad (be sure to include the item, price/or best offer (OBO) and phone number).
2. Select a 4, 7, or 24 page package.
3. Choose a category from the index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below. *

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

PRIVATE PARTY PACKAGES

1. 4 lines for 4 days for \$20.00 (\$5.00 per additional line). \$
2. 4 lines for 7 days for \$30.00 (\$7.50 per additional line). \$
3. 4 lines for 30 days for \$55.00 (\$10.00 per additional line). \$

↑ Private party ads apply only to individuals advertising personal merchandise or private property for sale, up to two items major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for rent and commercial operations. Employee Rates apply for Jobs Offered and Job Fairs. For Commercial or Employee Rate Information contact Stars & Stripes Classified. * Payment is required in advance in order to publish ads. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, Check or Money Order. Please do not send cash. If an ad is not received by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next available day. Please allow one extra day for all federal holidays. \$ Classified ads include most approximately 25 characters (this includes spaces) per line.

Deadline to place, correct, or make any change in an ad is four business days prior to the first date of publication. It's the responsibility of the advertiser to contact European Stars & Stripes Classified on the first date of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words, wrong Category (Class-by-code), CPE, BOLD, italicized information. It will be corrected, but no reprints will be given. Incorrect phone numbers, wrong prices, wrong dates, make or model listed incorrectly will result in a reprinted for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any ad and all ads considered inappropriate for publishing. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

... it's a SNAP!

CONTACT STRIPES TO PLACE AN AD

24 Hour e-mail & fax service (Phone Service 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

E-mail: classified@mail.stripesonline.com

Phone: CV 06155-601-3741

Phone: CV 06155-601-447/720/212 or DSN 349-4447/8328/8212

Toll Free In Europe: Belgium: 0800-7802 Germany: 0800-1011-271

Netherlands: 0800-2223804 Italy: 0800-780266 Spain: 090-958304

UK: 0800-058828 USA: 1-877-751-8352

Customer Service: 06155-601437 or DSN 349-8437

FOR INFORMATION ON BUSINESS RATES OR ADVERTISING IN THE SERVICE DIRECTORY,

CONTACT SENIOR AD SALES AT CIV: 06155-601203 or DSN: 349-8203.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING COUPON

☐ 4 lines/4 days @ \$20 ☐ 4 lines/7 days @ \$30 ☐ 4 lines/30 days @ \$55

Business Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Your Name: _____ Address: _____

Visa/MC (circle one) _____ Exp. Date: _____

Category #: _____ Run Date(s): _____

Ad(s): _____

Announcements 040

WWW.OCNUS.COM

SHOP AT

OCNUS

AND YOUR

PRCHASE(S) MAY BE FREE!

\$2000

CASH

GIVE AWAY

NOV 22 - DEC 22

STRETCH

your dollars with

exclusive coupons

and discounts!

600+ merchants

pre-screened and

shipping for AP0F0

service & rated

visit us at

WWW.OCNUS.COM

for details!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Steps for recovery call

408181-ANALP

or email: anap@anap.com

AP0HC0: Shop Secure!

Simple Directory, Orders

Only the Best!

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

College bowl schedule

North Texas (7-1) vs. CUSA	Tuesday, Dec. 14	New Orleans Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
	Tuesday, Dec. 21	Chang Sports Bowl	At Orlando, Fla.
ACC vs. Big 12	Wednesday, Dec. 22	GMAC Bowl	Mobile, Ala.
CUSA vs. MAC or WAC	Thursday, Dec. 23	Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
CUSA No. 6 vs. Big 12 No. 8	Las Vegas Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000	
MWC No. 2 vs. Pac-10 No. 4	Friday, Dec. 24	Hawaii Bowl	At Honolulu
CUSA vs. WAC	Saturday, Dec. 25	Blue-Gray Classic	At Troy, Ala.
Blue vs. Gray	Monday, Dec. 27	MPC Computers Bowl	At Boise, Idaho
WAC vs. ACC No. 6	Monday, Dec. 27	Motor City Bowl	At Pontiac, Mich.
MAC vs. Big Ten No. 7	Tuesday, Dec. 28	Independence Bowl	At Shreveport, La.
Big 12 vs. SEC	Wednesday, Dec. 29	Insight Bowl	At Phoenix
Pac-10 No. 4/5 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame	Wednesday, Dec. 29	Houston Bowl	Payoff: \$1.1 million
Texas-El Paso (8-2) vs. Big 12	Thursday, Dec. 30	Alamo Bowl	At San Antonio
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 10	Thursday, Dec. 30	Continental Tire Bowl	At Charlotte, N.C.
Big East No. 4/5 vs. Notre Dame (6-5)	Friday, Dec. 31	Emerald Bowl	At San Francisco
MWC No. 3 vs. Navy (9-2)	Friday, Dec. 31	Holiday Bowl	At San Diego
Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3	Friday, Dec. 31	Payoff: \$1.5 million	
WAC vs. MAC	Friday, Dec. 31	Musky City Bowl	At Nashville, Tenn.
SEC vs. Big Ten No. 4	Saturday, Jan. 1	Cotton Bowl	At Dallas
MWC champion or TBA vs. Louisville (9-1)	Saturday, Jan. 1	Peach Bowl	Payoff: \$1.2 million
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 4	Saturday, Jan. 1	Outback Bowl	At Tampa, Fla.
SEC vs. Big 12 No. 2	Saturday, Jan. 1	Sugar Bowl	Payoff: \$2.75 million
Wiscron (9-2) vs. SEC No. 3	Saturday, Jan. 1	Capital One Bowl	At Orlando, Fla.
ACC No. 2 vs. Big East No. 2 or Notre Dame	Saturday, Jan. 1	Payoff: \$5.187 million	
Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC	Saturday, Jan. 1	Rose Bowl	At Pasadena, Calif.
Michigan (9-2) vs. Big East or TBA	Saturday, Jan. 1	Fiesta Bowl	Payoff: \$1.14 million
BCS vs. BCS	Monday, Jan. 3	Sugar Bowl	Payoff: \$1.14 million
BCS vs. BCS	Tuesday, Jan. 4	Orange Bowl	Payoff: \$1.14 million
BCS vs. BCS	Wednesday, Jan. 5	Griffon Classic	At The Villages, Fla.
North vs. South	Wednesday, Jan. 5	East-West Shrine Classic	At San Francisco
East vs. West	Saturday, Jan. 22	Hula Bowl	At Maui, Hawaii
Alina vs. Kai	Saturday, Jan. 29	Senior Bowl	At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South			

Cardinals pile up points

C-USA champ Louisville wallops Cincinnati 70-7

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — As Louisville poured on the points, linebacker Brandon Johnson was hoping the Cardinals' high-powered offense and opportunistic special teams would slow down.

Louisville struck quickly and often, beating Cincinnati 70-7 on Saturday to clinch its third Conference USA championship since 2000.

Montrell Jones caught two touchdowns passed and returned a punt for a score, Eric Shelton rushed for 158 yards and Kolby Smith had three short TD runs for Louisville, which reached 70 points for the first time since 1955 despite having the ball for only 18:21.

The quick strikes never gave Johnson and the defense much of a breather.

"I told the guys after the game, 'You guys don't know anything about ball control,'" he said. "I mean, three plays, touchdown; one play, touchdown; two plays, touchdown. But that's how our offense plays. What are you going to do?"

Johnson was part of the problem. He returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and Tiger Jones recovered another blocked punt in the end zone for Louisville (9-1, 7-0), which accepted the league champion's automatic bid to the Liberty Bowl after the game.

Louisville was No. 10 in the latest Bowl Championship Series standings but resisted to settling for the Dec. 31 game in Memphis.

"I'm excited to go to the Liberty Bowl," Montrell Jones said. "The closer you can play to New Year's Day, the better."

The Cardinals were unfazed by gusty winds and steadily rain on Saturday, piling up 357 rushing yards and 491 total yards.

Stefan Lefors, the nation's most efficient passer, had a quiet day in his final home game, going



Louisville's Eric Shelton knocks the helmet off of Cincinnati defender Julian Hall (38) after a 54-yard gain in Louisville's 70-7 victory on Saturday.

8-for-11 for 79 yards with a TD pass. Lefors didn't mind, even with his parents watching him from the stands.

"I wasn't worried. The defense was making plays and the special teams were coming up big," Lefors said. "It was a fun game to be in."

Cincinnati (6-5, 3-3), which had a four-game winning streak snapped, mustered only 186 yards with out senior quarterback Gino Guidugli, who sat out with a broken bone in his throwing hand.

Cincinnati backup quarterback Collin Carey, who had thrown only one pass this season, failed to move the Bearcats beyond their own 34 on their first three possessions.

The Bearcats had four turnovers and 50 total yards at halftime.

"We didn't do much of anything," Cincinnati coach Mark Dantonio said. "I wish I could point to one play and say, 'This is where it happened.'"

Greene gives Georgia 'thumbs-up'

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — David Greene saw the game slipping away. His left thumb was hurting, but he wanted to go back in.

Good thing for Georgia that he did.

After leading the No. 8 Bulldogs to an early lead over Georgia Tech, Greene returned at the end with a fractured thumb to make sure Georgia held on to a 19-13 victory Saturday.

"I felt the momentum slipping," said Greene, who guided the Bulldogs to a crucial field goal late in the game. "I took my cough if I took the brace off my thumb. If anything, I just wanted to give us a little spark."

Greene was hurt on Georgia's first series, fracturing the tip of the thumb on his throwing hand just before he tossed a 28-yard touchdown pass to Fred Gibson. The senior quarterback played one more series before heading to the sideline, apparently to sit out the rest of the game.

Not so fast. With just over seven minutes remaining and the Bulldogs (9-2) struggling to preserve a 9-0 fourth straight win over the Yellow Jackets (6-6), Greene trotted back on the field. He couldn't make any deep throws, and he worked only out of the shotgun to lessen the pain when taking the snap.

Top 25

Rick Clausen was 26-for-41 for 349 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Vols.

Shane Boyd threw two touchdowns to freshman Jacob Tamm and finished 20-for-32 for 218 yards for Kentucky (2-9, 1-7).

Texas Tech 31, 203 Oklahoma State 15: At Lubbock, Texas, Sonny Cumble, the nation's leading passer, had a season-low 281 yards but threw three touchdowns to lead Texas Tech.

Jarett Hicks caught his second TD pass of the game, a 14-yarder, midway through the fourth quarter to make it 24-15 for the Red Raiders (7-4, 5-3 Big 12). Taurian Henderson sealed the win with a 6-yard TD run.

The Cowboys (7-4, 4-4) have dropped four of six games, following a 5-0 start.

Tulsa 37, 20 UTEP 35: At Tulsa, Okla., Ashlan Davis extended a two-week, avoided embarrassment with a 17-point halftime lead before rallying for the win against the Miners (8-3, 6-2).

Triumph: USC a win away from BCS title game

TRIUMPH, FROM BACK PAGE

Palmer's big day was the caper in a Heisman Trophy-winning season. Leinart has one more opportunity to influence the voters in a tightly packed Heisman race.

"I realize the stage was set for national TV," Leinart said. "But I just do the stuff I've been doing all year. Just be a leader, just make plays. I know a lot of people are saying stuff. I just go out and do my job."

Leinart, a junior, completed 24 of 34 passes without throwing an interception. He has two or more touchdowns passes in 22 of his 24 starts at USC and three or more 12 times. He threw five TD passes for the second time, tying the school record set by Rodney Peck and tied by Palmer.

Leinart has 66 touchdown passes in his career, including 28 this season with only five interceptions.

With a light rain falling, Notre Dame stunned the Trojans and a sellout crowd of 92,611 by moving 92 yards on 15 plays the first time they had the ball for a 7-0 lead. Brady Quinn capped the Irish's longest drive of the season by throwing a 1-yard pass to Billy Pritchard for the touchdown.

USC's Ryan Killean kicked a 39-yard field goal late in the opening period, but the Irish responded with a 73-yard punt to touchdown position for a 28-yard field goal by D.J. Fitzpatrick, making it 10-3.

Evenly, the game turned. Notre Dame had trouble moving the ball, and USC couldn't be stopped, scoring on six of its next seven plays. The Irish then took the Trojans didn't score during that time was late in the first half, when they ran out the clock.

First, Leinart threw a 12-yard scoring pass to freshman Dwayne Jarrett, capping an 80-yard, seven-play drive. The same combination clicked on a 57-yard play to finish it, 73-0 at the four-play mark, putting USC ahead for good with 2:06 left before halftime.

Leinart kicked a 42-yard field goal early in the third quarter to make it 20-10. After Fitzpatrick pulled a 39-yard field goal try, the Irish's 73-0 at the four-play mark, putting USC ahead for good with 2:06 left before halftime.

Smith played for the first time since he tore his right leg Oct. 9 against California.

Leinart threw a 23-yard TD pass to Jason Mitchell midway through the final period to complete the scoring on a play after Notre Dame was called for pass interference on a fake punt.

Jason Mitchell finished with 102 yards and Smith had four receptions for 96 yards.

Quinn completed 15 of 29 passes for 105 yards. Ryan Grant led the Irish in rushing with 54 yards on 15 carries.

"At first, it was easy, and then we let it slip away," Quinn said. "I don't think this was the best defense we've seen this year. We just couldn't make the plays."

BC gets taken out of BCS

Syracuse's Diamond makes sure Eagles leave without a ring

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — If you can't join 'em, beat 'em.

Syracuse wasn't able to follow Boston College to the Atlantic Coast Conference or stop the Eagles from leaving the Big East. The one thing the Orange could do was deprive BC of a spot in the Bowl Championship Series and a farewell Big East title.

"We heard it all week," said defensive back turned running back Diamond Ferri, who scored two touchdowns on offense and one on defense to help Syracuse beat No. 17 Boston College 43-17 on Saturday. "If they want to leave the conference, we wanted to send them out with a loss."

BC needed a victory for its first outright championship in a league that has been depleted by the defections of Miami and Virginia Tech to the ACC. The Eagles will join them next year but Syracuse, which tried to leave before being bypassed, made sure that they left on a sour note.

Damien Rhodes ran for a 69-yard touchdown on the game's first play from scrimmage and 107 yards in all before leaving with a leg injury. With star tailback Walter Keyes already injured, the Orange (6-5, 4-2) turned to Ferri, a starting safety and former high school running back.

"That's probably one of the biggest performances I've ever seen in my entire life, in any sport, to be able to come in and play a high-time college football like that," Rhodes said of his understudy.

The Orange, who woke up Saturday morning still not eligible for a bowl, moved into a four-way tie with BC (8-3, 4-2), Pittsburgh and West Virginia for first place in the conference. Syracuse has a chance at a BCS game if Pittsburgh loses to South Florida next week; if Pitt wins, it would likely earn a Fiesta Bowl matchup with Utah.

"It gives us a share of the Big East championship. We've had a lot of special Syracuse coaches here before, but it's pretty special," Syracuse coach Paul Pasquonelli said. "I'm just going to enjoy that we're bowl-eligible."

BC will go to its sixth consecutive bowl game, but it will be a second- or third-tier event like the Insight or Gator. Athletic director Gene DeFilippo said six or more bowl games could be in play.

But the Fiesta and Sugar, BC's goals at the start of the day, are out.

"I suspect at 8-3 we will go somewhere, but who knows where we'll end up," coach Tom O'Brien said. "We need another football game, especially for the seniors. . . . For them, we need to play another football game."

Ferri, who ran for 141 yards two touchdowns, scored again on a 44-yard interception that made it 36-17 and sealed the victory in the fourth quarter.



Syracuse's Diamond Ferri (22) celebrates one of his two rushing touchdowns with teammate Adam Terry. Ferri, a safety, also scored on an interception return.

Pitt now Big East's likely BCS entry

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — This hardly seemed possible when Pitt needed frantic rallies to overcome Division I-AA Furman or Big East cellar dweller Temple. Or when the Panthers could barely move the ball against Ohio — not Ohio State, but Ohio U.

The Panthers (7-3, 4-2) are the frontrunner for the Big East's Bowl Championship Series bid during a rebuilding year, one season after they settled for a minor bowl with Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald. Pitt's come-from-behind 16-13 victory over West Virginia on Thursday and Syracuse's 43-17 upset of No. 17 Boston College on Saturday forged a four-way tie for the Big East title among Pitt, Syracuse, Boston College and preseason favorite West Virginia.

All four own 4-2 Big East records, but Pitt and Syracuse (6-5) share the tiebreaker with 2-1 records among the four tied teams. If Pittsburgh beats South Florida (4-6) on Saturday to improve to 8-3, the Panthers are virtually assured of the BCS bid, probably to the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl in play No. 5 Utah (11-0).

"It's all in our hands now," Pitt quarterback Tyler Palko said Saturday after watching the Syracuse upset.

The Panthers lost in double overtime to Syracuse 38-31 on Nov. 6 but haven't lost since, and it has upset ranked teams in its past two, Notre Dame and West Virginia.

The Cyclones tied Colorado for first place in the North, but the Buffaloes advance to the conference championship game next Saturday against No. 2 Oklahoma in Kansas City because of their 10-14 victory over Iowa State on Oct. 16.

"It makes you want to throw up," said linebacker Erik Anderson, his eyes still red from crying. "It's a sick feeling. We fought all day. There wasn't any lack of effort or lack of intensity or passion. Everyone came to play, everyone came to win."

"There's a lot sick guys in the locker room right now."



Virginia Tech split end Josh Hyman (19) celebrates one of his two TDs with teammate David Clowney (87) during second half against Virginia Tech.

Hyman puts Hokies in line for ACC title

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Bryan Randall is wrapping up his college career in style, putting Virginia Tech on the verge of an unexpected championship.

Randall threw two second-half touchdown passes, and the 11th-ranked Hokies moved one victory from an Atlantic Coast Conference title with a 24-10 victory over No. 16 Virginia on Saturday.

"The stakes just kept getting bigger," Randall said after leading the Hokies to their seventh consecutive victory and ninth in 10 games.

Virginia Tech (9-2, 6-1) can win the league title — and a Bowl Championship Series berth — by winning next week at No. 9 Miami, the team that moved from the Big East to the ACC with the Hokies this season.

"To go down to Miami and get a win and the whole championship outright by ourselves in the first year, it would be phenomenal," Randall said.

"It would mean a lot to our whole team, the coaches, the program," said Randall, one of 19 seniors honored Saturday. "It would make people respect us. I think we've gained a lot of respect for what we've done."

The Hokies, picked to finish as low as eighth in the ACC this year, have done it by returning to the style of football that lifted them into the national elite a decade ago, using hard-nosed defense, big-play special teams and an efficient offense to wear down their opponents.

And that senior quarterback has been a big part of it, too, mentoring a young receiving corps and playing the best football of his career.

"He plays his best when things look the worst," coach Frank Beamer said. "There's just something special about this kid. What a player."

Randall finished 16-for-22 for 200 yards, and passed Don Strock to become the career yardage leader at Virginia Tech. Strock ended his career with 6,009; Randall now has 6,061.

He eclipsed Strock with a 12-yard pass to Jeff King on second-and-12 with 10 minutes left.

Randall celebrated on the next play, finding Josh Hyman against Tony Franklin for the second time, this one for 32 yards and a 17-10 lead.

"I wanted to throw it out there and give Hyman a chance," Randall said of the 5-foot-11 redshirt freshman, who stopped as Franklin ran by, then beat him to the end zone. "He made a play, just like on the other ball."

Earlier, Randall and Hyman teamed on a 45-yard scoring pass. Cedric Humes, who ran for 95 yards after Mike Imoh aggravated a strained hamstring, closed the scoring on a 32-yard run with 5:08 left.

Tech's defense and special teams made three big plays to thwart the Cavaliers (8-3, 5-3), who were playing for a share of the ACC title.

First, the Hokies blocked a 45-yard field goal try by Connor Hughes to end Virginia's first series. Then, after a 78-yard run by Alvin Pearson helped give Virginia a first-and-goal at the 4, Tech's Jonathan Lewis pounced on a fumble by Walt Landry.

And finally, in perhaps the biggest sequence of the game early in the fourth quarter, the Hokies led 10-7 and stopped three consecutive plays from the 1, forcing Virginia to end a 17-play, 78-yard march with just a tying field goal.

"Guys just kept responding," Hokies defensive end Jim Davis said. "It's something I can't explain. It was so special. Guys just wanted to play. Guys wanted to go three-and-out and keep those guys from winning."

"Every time our back was against the wall, our defense responded."

Virginia coach Al Groh said it somewhat differently.

"I guess you won't need a calculator to see that we left 14 points out there," he said. "Clearly that's how we see it."

After the game, Virginia announced that it would decline any invitation to a bowl following between Dec. 21 and Dec. 22 because of exams, taking the Cavaliers out of the running for the Champs Sports Bowl on Dec. 21.

Iowa St. bumped from Big 12 title tilt

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER
The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — With a kick and a pick, Missouri knocked Iowa State out of the Big 12 championship game.

Adam Crossett kicked a 25-yard field goal in overtime to give Missouri the win and A.J. Kincaid intercepted a pass in the end zone to preserve a 17-14 victory for the beleaguered Tigers on Saturday.

Making just enough plays to salvage a sweet ending to a disappointing season, Missouri (5-6, 3-5 Big 12) broke a five-game losing streak and kept Iowa State from winning the Big 12 North outright.

"It's been a very difficult five or six weeks, and the football team has worked very hard," said Missouri coach Gary Pinkel, who has taken much of the heat for the Tigers' struggles. "It's just very rewarding for me to see them smiling, laughing, feeling good about themselves."

Iowa State (6-5, 4-4) can take some consolation in getting a bowl bid for the fourth time in five years. But the Cyclones, whose last football championship game in 1912, had so much more within their grasp.

Bret Culbertson missed a 24-yard field goal attempt that could have won it regulation, and

Iowa State couldn't convert in overtime on first-and-goal from the Missouri 3.

The Cyclones tied Colorado for first place in the North, but the Buffaloes advance to the conference championship game next Saturday against No. 2 Oklahoma in Kansas City because of their 10-14 victory over Iowa State on Oct. 16.

"It makes you want to throw up," said linebacker Erik Anderson, his eyes still red from crying. "It's a sick feeling. We fought all day. There wasn't any lack of effort or lack of intensity or passion. Everyone came to play, everyone came to win."

"There's a lot sick guys in the locker room right now."

Barrera outslugs Morales

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales put on a classic the first time they fought four years ago, but this time it was again in their third fight Saturday night, only this time the result was different.

Barrera won a majority decision to take the WBC 130-pound title in a wild slugfest that was every bit the equal of the battle the two fought in 2000 that many declared the fight of the year.

After 12 rounds of almost non-stop action, Barrera held two fingers in the air to signify his second win in a row over Morales, who stared in disbelief at the decision was read.

"I did this fight to show all boxing fans that this is what boxing is all about," Barrera said.

The fight between the two Mexican warriors was their third in four years — with Morales winning the first and Barrera the second.

If the first fight, this one was in doubt until the scorecards were read before a wildly enthusiastic crowd that filled the MGM Grand hotel arena.

Barrera was favored 115-113 on one card and 115-114 on a second. The third judge had it 114-114. The Associated Press also had the fight even, 114-114.

"My body didn't respond to what I wanted it to do," Morales said. "I don't know why."

Before a loud crowd that seemed split between the two fighters, Morales and Barrera gave them all something to cheer for in a fight that began at a furious pace and rarely slackened.

It was reminiscent of their first fight in 2000 in which the two boxers traded more than 1,500 punches before Morales won a split decision. They did the same thing Saturday night, but this time it was Barrera on top, just as it was in their first rematch two years ago.

Punch stats showed Barrera landing 297 of 765 punches to 231 of 808 for Morales.

"It was the most rewarding fight of my career," Barrera said.

Morales was a 3-1 favorite in a fight that matched two boxers with no love for each other who both enjoyed big followings from their respective parts of Mexico. The animosity showed in the way Morales refused to touch gloves on several occasions and after the ninth round when Barrera threw a late punch and Morales had to be removed from the point of harm.

When Barrera went over to Morales at the end of the fight to shake his hand, Morales's face was in Barrera's father's shadow. Morales was bleeding from the nose from the early rounds on and on left eye to be hit by the eighth round from getting hit with left hooks by Barrera. But he gave as good as he got and the



Marco Antonio Barrera celebrates his win over Erik Morales, of Mexico, after their WBC super featherweight title fight.

two stood and slugged toe-to-toe throughout the fight.

Barrera was fighting for the first time at 130 pounds, but he seemed to be the stronger fighter in the early rounds, landing some thundering left hooks to the body and head. Morales came back with straight right hands and both were willing to stand and mix it up with every punch thrown.

"I felt a little fight early, I couldn't get my jab off," Morales said. "I know I gave away a lot of early rounds."

Both fighters rocked the other with punches, but neither went down and both were fighting with the same intensity in the 12th round as they were in the first.

In the final two rounds, the two fought furiously as the crowd stood on its feet cheering them on. Early in the 12th round, Barrera seemed to slip and Morales went after him but he reeled himself and did not go down.

Morales seemed to tire in the final round, but the two were still swinging wild and the bell sounded to end the fight.

Morales won the first fight between the two by split decision in 2000, a classic in which they traded more than 1,500 punches between them and the result was still in doubt in the final round.

That fight was fought at 122 pounds, and when they met two years later they fought at 126 pounds.

Barrera came back to win the second fight on a unanimous decision, turning from brawler to boxer and frustrating Morales in the late rounds.

Barrera, though, took a beating at the hands of Manny Pacquiao last November, and had to undergo special licensing from Nevada boxing officials after it was revealed he had brain surgery several years ago and had a metal plate in his head.

On the undercard, Ivan Calderon remained unbeaten and kept his 105-pound title Saturday night with a lopsided decision win over challenger Carlos Jajarc.

In other title fights, Rafael Marquez of Mexico retained his IBF 118-pound title in a rematch with Mauricio Pastrana of Colombia when the fight was stopped on cuts after eight rounds and Oscar Larios of Mexico retained his 122-pound title with a 12-round decision over Australia's Nedal Hussein.

Russia wins first Fed Cup

BY LEONID CHIZHOV

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia edged defending champion France 3-2 to claim its first Fed Cup title Sunday, with Anastasia Myskina and Vera Zvonareva beating Marion Bartoli and Emilie Loit 7-6 (3), 7-5 in the decisive doubles match.

Russia had lost its four previous Fed Cup finals.

The two-day final was tied 1-1 heading into Sunday, and Myskina beat Bartoli 6-3, 6-4 to put Russia ahead 2-1. But U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov won a wasted chance to clinch the title, losing to 16-year-old Tatiana Golovin 6-1, 6-1.

Myskina had a hand in each of Russia's three points in the best-of-five final. She easily beat Golovin on Saturday.

In the doubles, the French pair wasted four set points while serving for the opener at 6-5, and French Open champion Myskina converted a break point after the game's fifth deuce with a backhand winner. Russia trailed in the tiebreaker, too, but came back from 3-0 down and won it with another backhand winner by Myskina.

In the second set, the Russians broke for a 6-5 lead, then served it out at love in front of a home crowd that included former president Boris Yeltsin, a big tennis fan.

Earlier, Kuznetsova struggled to hold her serve against Golovin, and committed 46 unforced errors only a day after making 77 mistakes in a three-set loss to Dechy on open final.

Bears expected to sign QB George

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Struggling desperately at quarterback, the Chicago Bears intend to sign veteran Jeff George, a team source said Saturday night.

The Bears will sign George on Monday, the source said on the condition of anonymity.

The 36-year-old George is a former starter for the Bears, who has played since he was released by the Washington Redskins in 2001.

Chicago's quarterback woes began in the third week of the season when starter Rex Grossman sustained a season-ending knee injury.

Backup Jonathan Quinn struggled and was replaced by rookie Craig Krenzel.

The Bears went on a three-game winning streak with Krenzel as a starter, but he was shaky and turnover prone as Chicago's last two games. Krenzel was knocked out of Thursday's loss to Dallas with a sprained ankle, and Quinn was ineffective again as his replacement.

The Bears' (4-7) are expected to turn to third-stringer Chad Hutchinson on Monday and give him the start on Dec. 5 against the Minnesota Vikings and Redskins.

Hutchinson is a former major league pitcher with the St. Louis Cardinals who started nine games as a rookie with the Cowboys in 2002.

Earlier this season, the Bears gave a tryout to former Browns and Packers quarterback Tim Couch before deciding not to sign him.

George, who played college football at Illinois, entered the NFL in 1990 with the Colts. He also played with the Falcons, Seattle Vikings and Redskins. He completed 58 percent of his passes during a 131-game career, throwing for 154 touchdowns with 113 interceptions.

U.S. wins 4-man bobsled race

WINTERBERG, Germany — A U.S. sled piloted by Todd Hays ended Russia by 0.01 seconds Sunday in the final of the World Cup opener.

The race was so close that the two sleds that tied for fourth fin-

Sports briefs

ished just 0.05 seconds behind the American.

Hays and his team had a fast second heat of 54.72 seconds to finish in 1 minute, 49.56 seconds, catching the Russian sled piloted by Alexander Subbotin at 1:49.57. Hays' team was made up of Pavel Janovic, Bill Schuffenhauer and Steve Mesler. They trailed the Russians after the first run by 0.02 seconds.

The Swiss team led by Martin Annen was third, 0.01 seconds behind the Russians.

U.S. relay team loses medals

MONTE CARLO, Monaco — The United States was stripped of its 1,600-meter relay gold medal from the 2003 world championships on Sunday because of Calvin Harrison's second doping violation.

The gold instead goes to France, with Jamaica getting the silver and the Bahamas the bronze, the world governing body of track and field said.

Harrison was found guilty of using the stimulant modafinil in the U.S. championships in June 2003. He had contended that modafinil wasn't specifically mentioned on the official list of banned substances at the time.

Harrison had a chance to appeal the ruling, but the International Association of Athletics Federations said he was too late.

Two years earlier, Harrison tested positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine during the 1993 U.S. junior indoor championships and served a three-month ban.

As a two-time offender, the 400-meter star was suspended for two years in early August this year and dropped from the American team at the Athens Olympics. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency also ordered him to forfeit his relay gold medal from last year's worlds in Paris, and all his results from the rest of the test have been nullified.

Harrison ran the opening leg of the relay final. The other three

"My tactics for the match were wrong and I didn't realize it during the match," Kuznetsova said.

Myskina broke Dechy in the opening game and served out the first set.

In the second, Myskina broke in the third game again, but the Frenchwoman's strong backhand, Myskina, however, broke again and kept attacking, not allowing Dechy to come to the net.

"I had no choice today but go on the court and win the match. The match was rather simple. There's no difficulty playing against Nathalie," said Myskina, who scored her fifth consecutive victory over Dechy. "Mentally I wasn't tired. It was more physically. I couldn't move on the court as fast as I did yesterday."

runners — Tyree Washington, Derrick Brew and Jerome Young — will lose their medals, too. They will be French runners Leslie Djhone, Naman Kette, Stephane Diagne and Marc Raquil.

Young has since been banned for failing the USA's first second doping violation in a case that could result in the American 1,600 relay team from the 2000 Sydney Olympics — including Djhone, Brew and Young — losing their medals. The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, is yet to rule on the case.

Dodd edges Bjorn in China

SHANGHAI, China — Wales' Stephen Dodd won the China Open for his first PGA European Tour title, shooting a 4-under 68 on Sunday for a three-stroke victory over Denmark's Thomas Bjorn.

Dodd, 58th on the European money list last season, had a 12-under 276 total on the Siltport course.

Bjorn, the top-ranked player in the field at No. 31, shot a 68 and finished second. England's Steve Webster (68) tied for third at 6 under with Australia's Jason Daves (66) and Thai star Chawatt Paphon (66).

Thawana Wathana (68) Daves had a hole-in-one the par-3 eighth, the 11th ace of his career.

Oberholzer wins in Korea

JEJU, South Korea — American Arron Oberholzer earned \$1 million in the Shinhan Korea Golf Championship on Sunday, closing with a 5-under 69 for a two-stroke victory in the first PGA Tour-sanctioned Challenge Series event in Asia.

Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez, the third-round leader at 2 under, shot a 72 to tie for second, with South Korea's Kevin Na (70).

South Africa's Trevor Immelman had a 65, the best round of the day, to finish fourth at 1 under. Tim Pettersen (70) and Sweden's Daniel Chappell (71) followed at 1 over.

Illiniprip Gonzaga; Wake is next

Illinois shows power, balance in dominating Wooden game

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — After three straight blowouts, No. 5 Illinois was looking forward to its first real test against No. 24 Gonzaga.

Now it looks like the Illini will have to wait until top-ranked Wake Forest comes to Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday.

Deron Williams and Luther Head each scored 20 points to lead Illinois to an 89-72 victory over Gonzaga in the John Wooden Tradition game.

The Illini (4-0) set the tone from the opening tip, using superior three-point shooting and suffocating defense to dominate the Bulldogs (3-1) and set up an early-season showdown with the Demon Deacons (3-0), who won the Preseason NIT on Friday night.

"We just came out and tried to make a statement, show we're for real," Williams said.

Illinois made 14 of 28 three-pointers and scored 29 points off 19 Gonzaga turnovers to turn the game into a rout in the first five minutes.

"We were thoroughly dominated today, in every phase of the game," Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "There were times it didn't appear we belonged out there on the court."

Adam Morrison led Gonzaga with 26 points and 11 rebounds and Ronny Turiaf had 12 points and nine rebounds.

Williams got the Illini started on an 11-0 run early in the first half, but Illinois didn't look back. Illinois forced seven turnovers in the first five minutes, which led to 14 points and an 18-4 lead.

No. 6 Oklahoma St. 73, Sam Houston St. 57: At Stillwater, Okla., Jerry Graham scored 25



Illinois guards Luther Head, left, and Dee Brown, middle, celebrate with center Jack Ingram during the first half of Saturday's Wooden Tradition game in Indianapolis. No. 5 Illinois walked No. 24 Gonzaga 89-72.

points, John Lucas III added 17 and Oklahoma State recovered from another subpar first half to beat Sam Houston State.

Graham scored 18 points in the second half, and Lucas had 14 of his 17 after the break to help the Cowboys (3-0) overcome a six-point halftime deficit. Orhelo Alford led Sam Houston State (1-4) with 13 points.

No. 16 Pittsburgh 93, Loyola, Md. 57: At Pittsburgh, Chevon Troutman and Chris Taft dominated much-smaller Loyola, Md., inside at both ends of the floor and Gonzaga cruised to its third consecutive victory against weak opposition.

The 6-foot-10 Taft and the 6-foot-7 Troutman were in control from the start against Loyola (0-3), which hasn't had a winning season since going to the NCAA tournament in 1994 under current Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser.

Troutman finished with 17 points and six rebounds, and Taft had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Antonio Graves, sidelined for Pitt's opener with a sore ankle, added 12 points and Ronald Ramon and Yuri Demerits scored 10 each.

No. 22 Washington 79, No. 19 Alabama 76: At Anchorage, Alaska, Will Conroy had 18 points and six assists to help Washington win the Great Alaska Shootout.

Washington (4-0) led the entire second half, but barely avoided overtime when Alabama's Kennedy Winston missed a wild three-pointer at the buzzer. The Huskies' Tate Robinson finished with 16 points and was selected the tournament's outstanding player. The Simmons, starting in place of the injured Brandon Roy, had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Bobby Jones also had 15 points.

Chuck Davis led Alabama (4-1) with 23 points and 19 rebounds.

Pepperdine 75, No. 20 Wisconsin 61: At Malibu, Calif., Glen McGowan scored 29 points to help Pepperdine beat Wisconsin for its fourth straight victory.

Alex Acker added 17 points and seven assists for the Waves (4-1), who defeated a ranked opponent for the first time since beating Gonzaga 88-79 on Jan. 8, 2002.

Alando Tucker scored 18 points for Wisconsin (2-1).

No. 23 Florida 84, Providence 66: At Miami, Matt Walsh scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half, helping Florida defeat Providence — the alma mater of Gators coach Billy Donovan.

Anthony Roberson had 17 points, David Lee added 16 and Taurian Green 13 for the Gators (3-0), who never trailed. Ryan Gomes had 17 points for Providence (4-2), which was playing its third game in four days.

Tunkka Koti had a career-high 17 — 16 in the first half — for the Friars, who lost to No. 1 Wake Forest in Wednesday's Preseason NIT semifinals, beat Michigan in Friday's consolation game at Madison Square Garden, then boarded a charter flight to Miami and faced the Gators 17 hours after landing.

Duke trims Greensboro to set stage for Mich. St.

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke got the tuneup it needed before facing Michigan State.

Shelden Williams had 16 points and 11 rebounds Saturday night, one of six Duke Devils in double figures in a 98-44 rout of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Daniel Ewing and J.D. Redick also scored 16 points for the No. 9 Duke Devils (3-0), who built a 20-point lead midway through the first half and were unchallenged thereafter by their in-state rival from the Southern Conference.

It was a good way to rebound from an off night in a 74-61 defeat of Davidson, also from the Southern Conference. And for a team that came in shooting just 41 percent this season, it was a confidence boost before hosting No. 10 Michigan State on Tuesday night.

"We wanted to use this game as a way to gain momentum for the rest of the week," Redick said.

The Duke Devils had won the previous four over UNC-Greensboro (2-1) by an average of nearly 30 points, and practically turned Saturday's meeting into a collection of highlight-reel moments. Duke shot 53 percent, hit 15 three-pointers and used its superior ball-possession to smother the Spartans.

No. 10 Michigan State 102, Nichols State 52: At East Lansing, Mich., Michigan State coach Tom Izzo wasn't happy despite a 50-point victory in his 300th game.

The Spartans posted their third straight 100-point game, but Izzo's team now faces a real test at No. 9 Duke in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge on Tuesday. Following that is a possible meeting with No. 13 Maryland in a tournament in Washington, D.C. "I guess teams go through this all over the country when they play this kind of schedule," Izzo said of a 104-72 rout over Florida A&M and 104-67 win against Wisconsin-Green Bay. "It has given us a false sense of security that, thank God, will end on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday."

Michigan State (3-0) had every reason to feel secure about the outcome against the Colonels (0-3). Maurice Ager scored 19 points, Kelvin Torbert added 16, Shawn Brown and Alan Anderson had 15 apiece and Paul Davis had 11 for a team that has averaged 103.3 points.

The main thing we've learned is that we can't let up," Ager said. "Today, we were playing a smaller team and could pound the ball inside. Against Duke, we'll have to shoot from beyond the arc to prove we've grown, that we're not the same team as last year."

The Duke Devils beat Michigan State 72-50 last season, a loss that stayed with the Spartans for weeks.

Izzo, in his 10th season, has a 210-90 record.

McNamara too much as Syracuse rolls

By JOHN KEKIS

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gerry McNamara did it all for No. 4 Syracuse, scoring 29 points and making the first dunk of his college career. And he even managed to survive a couple of headlong dives, one of which left him sprawled in the Siena band.

Hakim Warrick and Josh Pace each added 13 points Saturday to lead the Orange to a 78-56 victory over Siena. Syracuse took an 18-2 lead in the first five minutes and led comfortably thereafter.

McNamara, Syracuse's best outside shooter, paced the early surge with a layup and a dunk

after a steal and court-long dash. He then completed a four-point play after hitting his 20th career three-pointer.

The scrappy Saints, who had 12 steals, regrouped and rallied back to 23-14 on a three-pointer from the left wing by Tay Fisher, who finished with 12 points. But every time Siena seemed on the verge of making it a game, McNamara struck back.

"I pride myself in making the ones when I need to. When you jump on a team early and keep them there, it's not too bad," said McNamara, who leaped out of bounds for loose balls in the second half, topping a photographer once and landing in the Siena band the other time.

"We didn't expect to destroy these guys, not in the least. We knew that they were a good team. Coach said not to underestimate them, they have a couple of losses, but in every loss a little dry spell cost them."

That dry spell occurred early in this one, but over the final 35 minutes, Syracuse outscored Siena by 40-54.

"It had a funny feeling. It was kind of a close game the whole game," said Warrick, who had 15 rebounds and three steals. "If we were up 15 or 17, it never felt like that. It always felt like they were a few shots from tying it or being right back in the game."

It was the first time Syracuse

had played in the building in which it beat Auburn and Oklahoma to earn a berth in the NCAA tournament Final Four on the way to winning the 2003 national championship.

"I could live in here," said McNamara, who was 6-for-14 on three-pointers. "That's the way I felt last time. It's fun to be back." Syracuse (5-0) got its 29th straight victory over an in-state foe. Siena (0-5) shot 32.3 percent and was outscored 54-29.

"We did a good job defensively the whole game," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "We didn't identify Fisher a couple of times, but we did a good job on (Michael) Haddix," who led Siena with 15 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
New York	6	50	.11
Philadelphia	6	48	.11
Toronto	6	48	.11
New Jersey	2	36	.05

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Orlando	8	46	.15
Washington	6	54	.10
Charlotte	6	50	.11
Atlanta	2	154	.01

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	10	37	.21
Cleveland	4	48	.08
Detroit	7	48	.12
Utah	4	34	.11
Chicago	1	50	.02

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	5	32	.13
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	12	25	.33
Minnesota	7	38	.15
Utah	8	51	.13
Denver	6	53	.10
Portland	6	53	.10

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	11	26	.29
Sacramento	10	37	.21
L.A. Clippers	7	53	.12
L.A. Lakers	6	53	.10
Golden State	6	53	.10

Saturday's games			
New York 105, Toronto 102			
Charlotte 191, Atlanta 92			
Orlando 105, Philadelphia 99			
Cleveland 96, Chicago 74			
Dallas 88, Memphis 105			
San Antonio 109, Utah 76			
Denver 102, Houston 76			
Milwaukee 96, Detroit 90			

Sunday's games			
Washington at Toronto			
Los Angeles at L.A. Clippers			
Boston at Miami			
New Jersey at Portland			
Atlanta at Seattle			
Minnesota at Sacramento			
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers			

Monday's games			
Boston at Orlando			
New Orleans at Denver			
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers			

Tuesday's games			
Toronto at Miami			
Charlotte at New Jersey			
Los Angeles at Atlanta			
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee			
Sacramento at Dallas			
Detroit at Houston			
Phoenix at Utah			
Seattle at Portland			

Wednesday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Thursday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Friday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Saturday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Sunday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Monday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Tuesday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Wednesday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Thursday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Friday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Saturday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Sunday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Monday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Tuesday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Wednesday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Thursday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Friday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Saturday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Sunday's games			
Portland at Seattle			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Phoenix at Houston			
Utah at Portland			
Seattle at Portland			

Philadelphia 76ers			
	W	L	Pct
Orlando	8	46	.15
Washington	6	54	.10
Charlotte	6	50	.11
Atlanta	2	154	.01

Cavaliers 96, Bulls 74			
Chicago	6	50	.11
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21

Grizzlies 85, Mavericks 81			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Mavericks 81, Grizzlies 85			
Dallas	10	46	.21
Memphis	5	37	.12
New Orleans	10	39	.21
San Antonio	5	32	.13

Bucks 96, Pistons 90

DETROIT — McDyess 3-6 3-4 9, Prince 8-15 1-5 20, R Wallace 10-19 0-0 20, Billups 3-8 5-6

SPORTS



Bettis, Steelers run past Redskins for ninth straight victory, Page 33

Triumph of the Trojans

USC wallops Notre Dame behind 5 TDs from Leinart

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For one quarter, Notre Dame was better than No. 1 Southern California.

Then the Trojans got serious and the Fighting Irish had no chance.

Matt Leinart made a big pitch for the Heisman Trophy, passing for a career-high 400 yards and a school record-tying five touchdowns, and the Trojans overcame a sluggish start to beat Notre Dame 41-10 on Saturday night.

The Fighting Irish gained 165 yards and scored 10 points on their first two possessions. They were blanked and picked up only 135 yards after that.

"They came out and punched us in the mouth," USC defensive lineman Shaun Cody said. "Give them credit. Everyone stepped up, made a little adjustment on defense. It was nothing big, we just played more physically against them."

And Leinart began finding his receivers with regularity, throwing for 335 yards after the opening period.

"Matt played great tonight," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "He had great vision, the protection was really there for him. He had an opportunity to freewheel. He made some real good decisions."

"This is just another statement from Matt. He's been doing this for two years. This was no different. The opportunity was there for him tonight, and he seized it."

The win was USC's 20th straight and 21st in a row at the Los Angeles Coliseum — a new school record. The Trojans haven't lost at home since being beaten by Stanford 21-16 on Sept. 29, 2001. That team was coached by current Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham.



Southern Cal's David Kirtman, top left, celebrates Steve Smith's fourth-quarter touchdown against Notre Dame in Los Angeles on Saturday. It was the fourth of five touchdown passes thrown by leading Heisman Trophy candidate Matt Leinart, above, in top-ranked USC's 41-10 victory.

"They found ways to make the big plays and we didn't," was Willingham's appraisal of his game. "That's what makes USC such an explosive team — the ability to generate big plays. They are No. 1 for a reason. The game was right there to be had — we just couldn't grab it."

The victory gave the Trojans (11-0, 7-0 Pac-10) their best record since 1972, when they went 12-0 and won the national championship.

More importantly, USC's 34th victory in 37 games since the start of the 2002 season kept its current national title hopes alive.

Should the Trojans beat UCLA (6-4) next weekend in their regular-season finale, they will almost surely secure a spot in the Orange Bowl for the Bowl Championship Series title.

Carroll has a chance to become the first coach to guide the Trojans to victories over both the Irish and Bruins — USC's biggest rivals — in three straight seasons.

Notre Dame (6-5) leads the series 42-29-5 and had a 15-3-1 record against the Trojans from 1983-2001. But USC has dominated the Irish the last three games, winning each by 31 points.

The Trojans beat the Irish in each of the past two years thanks mainly to terrific passing performances by Carson Palmer and Leinart, who threw for 425 and 351 yards, respectively.

SEE TRIUMPH ON PAGE 28



BC's hopes for Big East title intercepted by Syracuse
Page 30



Fifth-ranked Illini ready for Wake after taking out pesky Gonzaga
Page 34



Barrera outslugs Morales in one of 2004's best fights
Page 32

James becomes NBA's youngest to 2,000 points

Page 35

